

マギクラフト マイスター

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秋ぎつね
Akigitsune



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MAGI CRAFT MEISTER

- Volume 6 -

JOURNEY 2

~ EGELIA KINGDOM ~

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[Translated by: subpar translations]



Kuzuma

Lotte

Ernest Relm Andrew



Dominique

Stearina



Nidoh
Jin

Reinhardt



Beana

Elsa



Automata
Reiko

マギクラフト
マイスター
人物紹介

そしてそこに横たわるゴーレムを見て、

「ななななな、何よ、これええええ!!」

と、ビーナは真っ赤になって大声を上げた。
それもその筈、そのゴーレムはビーナそっくりだったからだ。
ボディラインもかなり正確に再現されているそれは、
かなりセクシーである。

「ジンのへんたいいいいいいい!!」





CHAPTER 1

HOURAI ISLAND AND KUNLUN ISLAND

Jin and Reiko continued their journey by carriage with Shouro Empire noble Reinhardt.

And currently, the line of carriages had arrived close enough to see the Fort City Blue Land.

Jin made his suggestion here.

“First of all, I’d like to go ahead to ensure that we’re prepared to house Reinhardt and the rest.”

Reinhardt and Elsa understood Jin’s invitation and eagerly accepted.

“In that case, let’s meet at the gates tomorrow morning. But it won’t likely be just the two of us.”

Reinhardt reminded that Jin should prepare for at least the butler Adberg, nanny Mine, and guard Herman coming along.

“Ah, that’s fine. Well then, I look forward to seeing you tomorrow.”

“Jin-kun, see you tomorrow.”

Jin and Reiko parted with Reinhardt’s group with a lighthearted goodbye. They walked for an hour and reached the cave in the depths of the forest on the outskirts of Blue Land where the hidden Warp Gate was.

“Doesn’t look like it’s been damaged, and there’s no traces of entry either.”

To keep small animals from wandering in by accident and to keep people out, a concealment barrier and a barrier that couldn’t be deactivated except by Jin’s Magic Energy pattern had been applied.

Jin and Reiko were able to easily enter the cave, and they stepped into the Warp Gate.



In a moment they arrived at Hourai Island. A familiar atmosphere surrounded Jin.

“Welcome back, Father, Elder Sister.”

“Welcome back, Master, Milady.”

First Soleil and Luna, then the five-colored golem maids greeted them.

The first thing Jin did was take a bath.

Traveling by carriage was somewhat exhausting, and more importantly, he hadn’t bathed in two days.

“Aah, so warm.”

“Father, are you tired?”

Reiko was soaking in the bath together with Jin.

“Not particularly tired, it’s just that it’s good to be home.”

“Master, shall I give the report?”

To save time, the five-colored golems were summoned to the bath to report.

Hourai Island’s development is doing well.

The roads and the harbor are under maintenance. The orchard and rubber trees are being cultivated, and fish are being raised in the fish preserve.

Stones are being quarried and stored, and mineral resources are mined, categorized and then stored.

Next are the reports of the Air Force, Navy, and Army.

Sky units are making progress with mapmaking.

Marine units have deployed boats to scout the surroundings of the island, and are staying vigilant.

In any case, since at present there were no compasses in this world, ships weren't able to sail on the open seas.

Finally the Land units are assisting in Hourai and Kunlun Islands' development while on guard.

"Hmm, now that I'm here, I want to make something with smarts for whenever I'm not around."

Soleil and Luna were a little unreliable.

Jin got out of the bath and quickly started putting his ideas in action.

"Gather all the types of Magi Crystals."

Earth, water, fire, wind, lightning, light, dark, and finally metal-attribute Magi Crystals were prepared.

Jin placed one Magi Crystal of each attribute in the middle of a Plate, and the placed the rest surrounding them.

He put together a Magi Device where the Magic Energy could reciprocally cycle after flowing through a Magi Crystal of each attribute.

"Alright, this'll work as the brain. I'll use an Ether Converter, and a Mana Driver for the energy source, and a Mana Tank as a reserve."

It was a safeguard against halting due to most common problems you could think of.

"The chassis will be Adamantite and Mithril."

He started constructing half of a globe. The dome's radius was about 50 centimeters.

So that it wouldn't become a computer uprising like in a lot of science fiction, plenty

of Magi Formulas for security were inscribed.

It would recognize Jin's Magic Energy pattern, and take orders from no one else but Jin. In addition, a device that would crash the program if anyone but Jin started it was added.

Basically, this brain would command all the golems.

The only exception was Reiko. Reiko and the brain would have the same rank, and each would keep an eye out that the other doesn't go on a rampage.

Reiko had strength, and the brain had smarts.

Finally, Jin transferred it almost all of his knowledge, and all the knowledge of Soleil and Luna, Planetarium and Satella, five-colored golem maids, Sky, Marine, Land, et cetera, gave the brain control of the Hourai Island, and named it Laozi.

"Father, what does this word "Laozi" mean?"

"Oh, in the world where I come from, it was said that he was the leader of legendary magi living in Hourai and Kunlun mountains."

There's some incorrect portions in the explanation, but let's call it a day with that since it's not going to cause any problems.

"Activate Laozi."

Jin activated the manager of Hourai Island, Laozi.

"My Lord, nice to meet you."

"Alright, Laozi, are there any issues?"

"No, everything is perfect."

"You do know what to do from now on, right?"

"Yes, without question."

“If that’s the case, then great. See that a report is sent to me regularly.”

“I understand.”

In this way, the brain that takes care of Hourai Island and Kunlun Island in place of Jin was born.

“Now, even if I’m away from home I can rest easy. If something happens consult Laozi first. In addition, periodically report to me.”

“Understood.”

The golems replied in unison.



“Father, I have a request.”

Curiously, Reiko asked Jin for a favor.

“Mm, what is it?”

“Please make me absolutely unable to be beaten by a golem like that Albus from the other day. And also, I want it to be unconditionally impossible for me to attack Father.”

“Reiko...”

It looked like she was worried about not being able to directly fight against Albus for fear of having her Control Core rewritten with Craft Magic.

“Got it, come over here.”

So Jin invited Reiko into the workshop inside his study, and she lay on top of the worktable.

“Well then, I’ll turn you off for a while.”

“Yes.”

In fact, Jin had been thinking about countermeasures since that event too.

The first countermeasure was Magic Energy shielding.

Jin suspended Reiko, and added a shield made of highest quality Mithril to her Control Core to protect it from outside Magic Energy.

On the outside of the shield he inscribed a Magi Formula that converts external Magic Energy to Ether.

Second was protection using Magic Energy patterns.

Jin changed the Magi Formula to be rewritable only with his Magic Energy pattern, and replaced the Magi Circuit composition. It was quite difficult.

“Let’s add a backup Control Core too.”

Third, he modded in a backup Core that could take control if the main core had defects. He kept the main Control Core in its original place in the chest, and put the spare Core in the abdomen.

“I suppose I’ll add one final safety device.”

It was like a breaker of sorts. It was a Magi Device which had Jin’s Magic Energy pattern in it, and if an opponent tried to tamper with the behavior, it would instantly cut out all Magic Energy fed to it.

It was similar to the one installed in Laozi. But this one had the condition of “only if it wouldn’t be disadvantageous to Jin” attached.

“Now then, let’s do the long-awaited full-body maintenance.”

Jin performed checks on Reiko’s body, and repaired and strengthened the parts that were even a little bit damaged or worn.

He replaced the Ether Converter with a new one, and tuned the Mana Drive a second time. It would improve efficiency and increase output by 10%.

He took the opportunity to also add stealth capabilities like the [Hide] function. Combining presence removal, Magic Energy isolation and silencing, the resulting

function was many levels above the one those robbers had used.

He named it the [Stealth] function. That was all for now.

“Alright, Reiko, activate.”

Jin asked Reiko who got up,

“How is it? How’re you feeling?”

“My body feels somewhat lighter than before. Thank you, Father.”

“Uh, is that so. That’s good.”

In reality, with the addition of the extra Control Core, Magi Device and Mithril shielding, the body weight ended up increasing by almost three kilograms. But, it was within error range, and the output was increased too.

Jin thought silently. Then he explained the new functions.



After finishing Reiko’s remodeling,

“Now then, I wonder what’s gone on in Kunlun?”

After having the lunch Soleil made, Jin at last left towards Kunlun Island to prepare for hosting guests.

“Father, what about the settings of the Warp Gate?”

Luna asked. Currently, the gate didn’t take people from Blue Land to Kunlun Island. Instead, it took them into the study. That wasn’t desirable.

“Let’s see... How about installing another Warp Gate in Blue Land, and having that exit directly to Kunlun Island?”

“I see. I think that is a good idea.”

Given that Laozi supported the idea too, the necessary materials were transported to Kunlun Island. Naturally Reiko carried them.

CHAPTER 2

KUNLUN AND BLUE LAND

The first thing to do after going to Kunlun Island was setting up the Warp Gate.

“Alright, next is setting up and pairing the Warp Gate at Blue Land.”

“I’ll handle it, Father.”

Before Jin could even say yes, Reiko had jumped into the Warp Gate and returned to Hourai Island.

She then warped to Blue Land carrying the materials, set up the Warp Gate and linked it to Hourai Island, and came back.

It took about 15 minutes for her to get back. Reiko’s handiwork was good, as usual.

Now that the Warp Gate preparations were in order, Jin finally got time to look around Kunlun Island.

Soleil and Luna were the guides. The two were in charge of the development of Kunlun Island.

“First is this basement of the mansion where the Warp Gate resides.”

The stone basement looked very old and gave off an atmosphere that it wouldn’t be strange to find an Artifact here.

“After opening the door and going up the stairs to the first floor, we arrive at the entrance hall.”

The bronze door looked heavy and was coated in a verdigris patina, really making it seem like the door to a secret room. Both Jin’s and the predecessor’s knowledge agreed on this.

The entrance hall was of course also of stone and spanned 10 meters in every

direction. The walls had frescoes painted and complicated formulas engraved on them.

If you looked closely, you could see there were paintings of the five-colored golems and Magi Formulas for security, and...

“What’s this?”

A certain poem was written in Japanese on the wall. To be exact, they were lyrics. It was a pop song that was popular some five years ago that had stayed in the back of Jin’s mind.

“Well, there’s no one who can read it so I suppose it’s fine.”

Jin moved on without thinking about it too deeply.

“The next room is the workshop. Please see that it is to your liking.”

There were metallurgy tools like anvils, a forge, hammers, et cetera.

For woodworking there were saws, chisels, planes and such.

In the middle of the room there was a large heavy-looking workbench.

Everything had seen years of use (or so it seemed).

On one shelf there were a few Magi Crystals and various Magi Stones.

On another shelf there was a bit of silk from a Ground Spider.

In the adjoined storeroom there was copper, bronze, cupronickel, nickel, iron, tin, and also Light Silver, Mithril, and a small amount of Adamantite.

It felt like it was imitating the workshop at Hourai Island, except at a smaller scale.

“Hmm, this should be enough. Soleil, Luna, good work.”

Jin then gave the two Guard Rings he made as a reward for their efforts.

“Thank you very much. I will take good care of this.”

The two accepted the rings with pleasure.

On the first floor there was also a dining room, toilet, and a bathroom. They gave off the impression that they had been recently renovated. Incidentally, the toilet is Western-style.

Because the waste is disassembled to its chemical elements using magic, it's both sanitary and odorless.

The bath was made into a hot spring by drawing water from 50 meters underground. It was pleasant news to bath-loving Jin.

It's a bit of a digression, but after this a hot spring was made in the same way in Hourai Island.

The dining room was wide. It was large enough to fit at least ten people. In the kitchen four gas stoves Jin had built were installed. Of course, there was also a refrigerator.

Water could be drawn with a pump.

"Hmm, there seems to be no problems here."

The second floor seemed to have the living spaces.

"The living quarters are set up as follows."

There were eight rooms, each around ten tatami mats in size. Two of them had been taken, seemingly one for Jin and one for his late teacher.

To be precise, since Jin's room had a two tatami mat closet his living space was only eight tatami mats.

Jin's and his (dummy) teacher's room were side by side, and on the opposite side of the hallway there was the library and a storage room.

The remaining four rooms were Western-style, and had wooden floors and stone walls. Muscovite was fitted in the windows. There were beds, tables, chairs, and fixed closets, all with an antiquated design.

Because the designs were those that were popular during Jin's predecessor's era, they were without doubt actual (fake) antiques.

Three of those rooms were for guests, and the final room was the waiting room of the golem maids. Near the guest rooms there was also a toilet.

The third floor was more of an attic, and was used as a storeroom.

There were dozens of copies of common grimoires from Jin's predecessor's times, and robes that looked like those of a very old-fashioned magus lying around.

Parts of broken Magi Tools from Hourai Island had also been brought. Only parts that didn't seem to have any use were selected though.

"Mm-hmm, even to me it seems like a house where a magus has lived since the olden days.",

Jin admired.

"Next is the outside. A tentative outline for a map has been painted on the wall."

Jin didn't notice it in the entrance hall last time.

"Let me see. Oh, is this it?"

Jin could intuit that Kunlun Island was about half the size of Ooshima of the Izu Seven. That was plenty for people to live on. The coastline was almost circular.

In the middle was the Kunlun Mountain, and the mansion was located at the southern foot of the mountain.

"The east and north sides of the island are forests. The west side is grass-covered wilderness. The south side is wetlands, with some grasslands and sparse woods."

"In that case, have you been able to mine the west side for resources and such?"

"Yes. Land units from 80 to 100 have assisted in excavating several mining pits, and are currently extracting minerals."

The arrangements were fairly good.

“Alright, I’ll leave the guiding of the guests to you two. I’ll be relying on you then.”

“Understood.”



“Has it been three months since then?”

Meanwhile, Reinhardt and Elsa had arrived at a friend’s house in Blue Land.

“Indeed, something like that. When we departed for Elias Kingdom it was around the end of last year.”

“Since we last met, even Miss Elsa became prettier.”

“No need for flattery.”

“No, it’s not flattery. She seems somehow more adultlike, or should I say profound.”

“Compliments won’t get you anywhere.”

The friend was Earl Kuzuma.

They both spoke to each other informally. Because they were close in age with each other and lived in the same house, they’ve been friends since two years ago when Reinhardt became a diplomat and first arrived at Blue Land.

“You can take it easy now, right?”

“I guess so. Now that all the official business is done, I can return to my homeland at leisure.”

A lady attendant brought in some fruit.

“Oh, it’s here. Try some of this fruit.”

The Earl said and recommended the plate of Pelshkas.

Reinhardt and Elsa both had a mouthful and were astonished.

“Oh, it’s cold and good!”

“Delicious.”

Earl Kuzuma responded with pride,

“Right? The fruit’s exceptional when it’s been moderately cooled with a refrigerator.”

Reinhardt reacted to that word, ‘refrigerator’.

“What? A refrigerator, you say?”

“That’s right, it’s a Magi Tool I obtained after you departed from here. It’s barely spread anywhere else apart from Blue Land.”

“A while ago, I saw a single one in Bolgia.”

“Huh, is that so. It must’ve been brought there by a quick-witted merchant.”

Earl Kuzuma then smiled impishly and said,

“As a matter of fact, I know the Magi Craftsman who made that refrigerator.”

Reinhardt was surprised. After all, in Elias Kingdom’s capital Borgia, in a Magi Tool shop Jin had said he made the refrigerator himself. He then said,

“Oh, I’d like to meet them.”

“I thought you’d say that. You’re a Magi Craftsman too, after all. Hey, invite her here.”,

The Earl said and the lady attendand next to him left to summon the Magi Craftsman.

In his inmost heart, Reinhardt was looking towards to finding out what kind of a person would come.

He hadn’t known Jin for even a month, but already understood his nature and talent.

If that Jin said he made something himself, then those words were true, and he’d soon find out just what kind of a swindler this Magi Craftsman would turn out to be.

For Jin’s honor he’d expose them, is what Reinhardt’s secret motive was.

CHAPTER 3

REINHARDT, BEANA AND ELSA

The lady addendant brought with her a young redhead girl who nervously bowed in front of Reinhardt and the others,

“M- my great, I mean, my greetings, my name is Beana.”

Earl Kazuma looked at the overly stiff Beana and said,

“Hey, no need to be so nervous. This is my friend, Reinhardt. She is Miss Elsa, Reinhardt’s cousin.

“I’m Reinhardt Randol.”

“Elza Randol.”

The two introduced themselves.

“N-nice to meet you.”

Beana’s stiffness still hadn’t disappeared. Earl Kuzuma had Beana sit herself down at the table next to him and said,

“Beana’s a very excellent Magi Craftsman I got to know recently, and she’s got some ideas I’m interested in.”

“Earl, I- I’m not that skilled.

On the surface, Reinhardt appeared to be cordial to Beana who denied the compliments with a red face,

“No no, that’s not true at all. Refrigerator, was it? I’m not familiar with the structure, but the idea is magnificent. What with both being usable for preserving food and improving its’ texture.”

Beana cast her eyes down and looked ashamed,

“...No, I can’t call the refrigerator my invention.”

“Hm? What do you mean?”

Reinhardt was waiting for what on earth Beana would say next.

“Well... Even though it was only for a short while, another Magi Craftsman I asked for help did most of the development. I only helped with the assembly.”

After hearing that, Reinhardt’s impression of the girl in front of his eyes increased slightly.

“Was the name of that Magi Craftsman... Jin?”

After Reinhardt spoke, Beana’s eyes opened wide and she immediately leaned her body forwards.

“Jin! You know Jin!?”

Reinhardt felt her energetic reaction was a bit heartwarming and said,

“Yeah, I know him. He was the Magi Craftsman of the winning team of a golem boat competition in Port Rock a few days ago, you see.”

Earl and Beana responded respectively,

“Huh, as I thought. When I heard the name Jin, I thought there was a possibility it was him.”

“Eh, eh, eh? Jin won a competition like that!?”

It seemed like Earl Kuzuma had heard news of the competition. Beana, on the other hand, hadn’t.

“Earl-sama, why didn’t you tell me?”

The Earl responded to Beana pressing for an answer,

“Sorry, sorry. I wanted to confirm it before telling you. So, forgive me.”

After Earl had said all that, Beana had nothing to add and shut her mouth. The Earl resumed his conversation with Reinhardt.

“Was Jin’s craftsmanship amazing?”

“Yep. Thanks to him, my team finished second. Right, Elsa?”

Elsa was a bit surprised being brought up so suddenly, but still responded,

“Mm. Jin-kun’s golem and the propulsion device were both novel.”

Beana paid attention to the “kun” attached to the end of Jin’s name that came out of Elsa’s mouth.

“You call him Jin-kun?”,

Beana couldn’t resist asking Elsa.

“I do. He is a friend. I got this ring from him.”,

Elsa said somewhat proudly, smiled and displayed the ring on the middle finger of her right hand.

Beana’s mood deflated after having the ring shown to her alongside the explanation.

“Uh, is- is that so.

Beana stopped leaning forward and rested her body on the chair, this time leaning on the back of it, then stared at the ceiling.

(...Even though he helped me...And I didn’t even get to thank him properly...I wonder if I gave him a ring we could have a relationship...)

“Hm? Did you say something?”

“N-no, nothing.”

“Oh, as I thought, he turned out to be an excellent Magi Craftsman.”

Meanwhile Earl Kuzuma’s and Reinhardt’s conversation continued.

“I can’t say I didn’t hope that he settled permanently in this country, but regretfully he’s already had a dispute with one of the Earls.”

“Hm? What do you mean?”

Earl Kuzuma summarized the matter with Earl Guarana.

The topic seemed to be a little uncomfortable for Beana who was related to it.

Elsa also listened, and had thoughts like

(Does Jin-kun act kind for every girl?)

But she didn't say any of it aloud.

"I see. Earl Guarana, huh."

Reinhardt nodded with comprehension.

During a previous occasion in Blue Land, he had met Earl Guarana in a welcome party thrown by the feudal lord Duke Blue.

"I hate that guy."

Elsa voiced her disgust plainly. It was because right after his greetings, he had moved towards Elsa and asked her "Won't you become my concubine?"

Thinking about the slimy look he then had in his eyes made a chill run down Elsa's spine.

"Well, because she now spends her time in the workshop here in my mansion, Earl Guarana can't meddle with her. In addition, maybe he'll soon have his eyes on some other woman."

In that case, it'd be unfortunate for the other party.

"But you see, he's in charge of almost all the mining grounds around here. His influence in Blue Land is nothing to be sneezed at."

"Ah, there are good quality Magi Crystal mines around, right?"

Western Blue Land's mountains' mines were Earl Guarana's territory. Kuzuma's territory was the eastern farmlands.

The rest of the plains surrounding Blue Land were under Duke Blue's direct control.

"At least since I don't have any official business this time, I can be at ease without meeting him."

That would turn out to be incorrect, but Reinhardt didn't know it yet.

"You said you can return home at your leisure, but how many days can you stay here for?",

Earl Kazuma asked while eating the flesh of a Pelshka,

"Oh, who knows. One of the carriages broke so we can't continue without resupplying, and I want to try making some small improvements to the carriages anyway.",

Reinhardt replied.

"You're the same as ever. In that case, I'll supply the materials. And if you need a workshop..."

"Ex-Excuse me, if you would like then please feel free to use my place!",

Beana braced herself and said.

It felt like she wanted to hear a little more about Jin, and to see the way a foreign Magi Craftsman works.

"Ah, when that time comes I may rely on you."

Reinhardt gave a light reply. Then, he started discussing tomorrow's plans.

"So, I was planning to go out for a bit tomorrow."

"Oh, is there a specific place you're going to?"

"Well, as a matter of fact, along with Elsa, I was invited to Jin's home."

"Eeeeeeeh!?"

Beana wildly raised her voice when she heard that, and asked,

“Uh, um, is Jin coming!?”

Once more leaning towards Reinhardt while inquiring. As one would expect, even Reinhardt was taken a bit back by this, and he replied,

“Ah, yes. We traveled together all the way from Elias Kingdom’s capital Bolgia to here.”

“I’ve traveled with Jin in the same carriage since Port Rock.”

Elsa interrupted from the side.

“Oh... Is that so...”

For a brief while complex feelings of regret, or maybe sadness painted Beana’s face, but they soon vanished.

“Please! Would be so kind as to take me along with you!?”

Beana got up, bent 90 degrees at the waist to bow, and asked.

Reinhardt thought about it. It didn’t seem like this girl Beana was lying about being acquainted with Jin.

In that case, there would be no issues about bringing her to the meeting spot with Jin. Afterwards it would be up to Jin whether or not to invite her.

Having come to that conclusion, he said,

“Right, tomorrow, we’ve arranged a rendezvous with Jin. Taking you along shouldn’t be a problem. After that, you can ask Jin firsthand.”

Beana’s face lit up with enthusiasm,

“Thank you very much!”

She said, and again made a 90-degree bow.

With an indescribable look on her face, Elsa was looking at the scene with Beana. Reinhardt did not notice.

CHAPTER 4

WELCOME TO KUNLUN ISLAND

The next morning, before the castle gates of Blue Land.

“Ah, they’re here.”

Jin who had arrived just moments before saw a carriage come through the gates. It was Reinhardt’s four-horse carriage.

The carriage stopped in front of Jin, its door opened, and Reinhardt and Elsa came out.

In addition, Elsa’s butler Adberg and her nanny Mine also stepped off the carriage.

And finally in addition to that, a person who Jin didn’t expect appeared. Namely the red-haired girl Beana.

“Jin! I wanted to see you!”

Beana said, immediately rushing over to Jin after stepping off the carriage.

“Back then, you disappeared after just a one-sided talk with me! I didn’t even get to thank you properly...!”

Beana was a tiny bit shorter than Jin, but she stood tiptoed and pressed Jin while meeting his gaze. Because of her intensity,

“So-, sorry.”

Jin could only reflexively apologize. Unable to remain indifferent to Jin’s reaction, or perhaps considering Beana’s behaviour,

“Jin-kun apologizing is strange. And you, keep your distance.”

Elsa got between the two and separated Beana from Jin.

“Uh, I know... Jin, no need for you to apologize. I just wanted to thank you

Three people observed the situation.

Reinhardt thought Elsa's actions were endearing.

The butler Adberg was staring at the changed Elsa as if he was looking at something dazzling.

The nanny Mine was scowling at Jin.

"Now then, Jin, Miss Beana said she wants to meet you at any cost so I brought her along, but was that unwanted?"

Nothing of the sort, Jin replied, and continued,

"Although, the Warp Gate's configuration lets me take only two people along with me..."

"Oh, I see. You know, Earl Kuzuma also said he'll at least come to greet you, but in the end he couldn't come because of government affairs. And Adberg and Mine are just escorting us."

But Mine interjected,

"Reinhardt-sama! You really intend to go to an incomprehensible place like that with just the two of you!?",

With grumblings like such. She didn't notice the look in Reiko's eyes.

Reinhardt stopped Mine's tirade,

"It's fine. I'll be there, and you also know how Jin took care of Elsa during the trip, right?"

"That's true but..."

Mine still didn't seem convinced, but Adberg said something to Mine and she calmed down.

"Ji-Jin! Um, could I... That is... Is it okay if I also come to your home...?"

Throwing a sidelong glance at Reinhardt and the others, Beana asked the question she

wanted to ask the most.

“I’ve been interested since the time you helped me. Please!”

What to do, Jin worried.

The reason Kunlun Island’s house was originally built was a plan for when he’d bring Beana along to visit.

But he just said he can’t bring more than two people, so what now, he thought.

As if she had read Jin’s thoughts,

“Father, I think I should be able to take at least one person with me.”,

Reiko gave him timely help.

“I- is that so. In that case, we should be able to make do.”

Jin turned towards the group.

“Let’s see, the Warp Gate only reacts to my Magic Energy. So, if you hold my hand I can take you with you. That’s why I said only two people, but it seems like Reiko is able to take someone else along.”,

Jin explained. It was an explanation with many holes in it, but to Jin’s pleasure everyone thought something like “it’s an Artifact, so...” or “I guess Warp Gates are like that, so...” and they didn’t particularly poke holes into his story.

“If it’s like that, then surely I can...”

Mine started complaining again, but Adberg tactfully pulled her into the carriage and it became quiet.

“Now then, shall we go?”

Jin began to walk while Reinhardt, Elsa and Beana followed. Reiko was in the rear.

Elsa soon got next to Jin and locked her left arm with Jin’s right one. Beana clung to Jin’s left arm after seeing that.

From behind, Reinhardt looked at them and smirked,

“Your father is no joke, huh.”,

and called out to Reiko who was walking in the back. Reiko seemed to be rather displeased.

After ten minutes of walking, Reinhardt, Elsa, or Beana were obviously not yet tired, but Jin still stopped,

“Koma!”

and called for his favorite horse golem.

The horse golem Koma and two others of the same type came out of the forest. Due to that,

“Wha- what’s this?”

Beana’s face twitched when she saw them.

“...Looks interesting.”

Elsa was delighted.

“Horse golems, huh! Just what I’d expect from Jin!”

And Reinhardt admired greatly.

“They’re golem horses alright. This is how you mount them.”

Jin was freed from Elsa’s and Beana’s grips, and straddled Koma to show how.

“You grab this and twist here to move. Since they’ve got some autonomy, as long as you properly give directions to the destination all you need to do is ride.”

Truth be told, Jin realized this morning that having Reinhardt and the others walk all

the way to the Warp Gate was a waste of time, and hurriedly made the horse golems other than Koma.

“Um, I’m wearing a skirt though.”

Beana’s blushed and said.

“Oops.”

Jin hadn’t noticed it. On the other hand, Elsa didn’t seem to care and was already straddling one of the horse golems.

“Jin-kun, this is fun.”

As she turned the handle expertly, Elsa’s horse clip-clopped around the place. It seemed like she was looking down on and sneering at Beana.

“Hmm, I hadn’t thought of this.”

Reinhardt had also mounted one, and was driving it around to try it in various ways.

Since he had originally planned to bring just two people along, there were only two extra horse golems.

(Should I have her ride with Elsa or... No, no matter how you look at it, it would be dangerous with Elsa who’s not accustomed to riding.)

He had installed a speed limiter just in case, but he still couldn’t help but worry about something going wrong by chance.

And so the only option came to be Jin’s Koma.

“I guess there’s no other way.”

That decided, Jin moved Koma next to Beana.

“Come on, Beana, get on.”

Jin held out his hand.

“Eh?”,

At first she was puzzled, but then understood what Jin meant and said,

“Um, yes!”

She grasped Jin’s hand tightly, and lifted herself on top of Koma. She then sat sideways in front of Jin.

“ ... ”

Beana clinged to Jin as she sent out a triumphant look towards Elsa, who was looking at the two.

“Let’s go. I’ve wanted to see Jin’s house for a while!”



They moved to the depths of the forest with Jin in the front, Elsa second, and Reinhardt third. Reiko moved in a defensive position while eyeing the surroundings.

Even though they knew there's nothing more than small animals and birds in the forest.

They continued on at a speed slightly faster than normal walking speed.

In under 30 minutes they had arrived at the foot of a great boulder in the depths of the forest.

"Now then, this is where we get off the horses.",

Jin said and first got off himself, then helped Beana off the horse too.

Reinhardt promptly got himself off the horse, and said,

"Come on, Elsa."

And was about to offer her a hand when,

"It's fine. I can get off by myself."

Elsa sulked a bit and said, then jumped down.

Jin went around the huge boulder and led everyone down into a cave behind it.

"Here is the entrance. Take my hand. By doing so, you won't be caught in the barrier.",

He said and held out his hands. Beana took the right hand, and Elsa quickly took hold of the left hand.

"Oh, Reinhardt, take Reiko's hand. Reiko, please."

"Yes, Father."

Reiko had a very displeased look on her face as she held out a hand to Reinhardt, who took it with a strained smile on his face.

Reinhardt was deeply surprised when Reiko's hand was softer than he had expected, and he could also feel her body temperature.

“Well then, shall we go?”

Jin said and passed through into the cave. Beana and Elsa went along with him.

“So bright.”

The two were surprised to find the inside brighter than expected.

“The Warp Gate produces some illumination, you see.”

Jin said and gestured towards the Warp Gate. Because both his hands were occupied, he pointed with his jaw while wondering if it’s bad manners.

“Ooh! So that’s the Warp Gate!”

Reinhardt was slightly excited to see the real thing for the first time, but Jin just said,

“Okay, let’s go.”

He stepped into the Warp Gate after saying so.

Elsa and Beana hesitated, but since they were holding hands with Jin, they were led into the Warp Gate and teleported.



In an instant the scenery changed, and the group appeared in a stone basement.

A little while later, Reiko and Reinhardt also came out of the Warp Gate. Finally, Koma and the other horse golems appeared.

Jin let go of the hands of the two, bowed his head slightly and said,

“Welcome to Kunlun Island.”

CHAPTER 5

FLOWER PICKING

“This is Jin’s home...”

“The place where Jin-kun lives...”

“Kunlun Island you say?”

Each of the three had their own reactions.

“This is nothing more than the basement where the Warp Gate is. This way, please.”

Jin said so, opened the door, and climbed to the top of the stairs. They exited into the entrance hall.

“Oh my, the walls are filled with paintings. Is this a... Golem?”

The moment Reinhardt had said that,

“Welcome home, Father, Elder Sister.”

Soleil and Luna appeared to greet them.

“Welcome, dear guests.”

“That surprised me, are these two of your making, Jin?”

“Yep, the gold-colored one is Soleil, and the silver-colored one is Luna.”

“I’m Soleil.”

“I’m Luna.”

The two gave greetings with fluid movements.

Seeing the beautiful figures of the two girls, Elsa’s heart wasn’t calm. Because she remembered one night seeing Jin embrace Reiko.

Jin denied it, but it seems he's got that kind of a preference after all, right? She pondered.

On the other hand, Beana voiced her surprise with honesty and admiration,

"Oh wow, amazing. Soleil and Luna? It's my first time seeing this exquisite golems."

"Father, since the weather is fine today, tea has been prepared outside."

Soleil said, and Luna opened the entrance hall's door.

Jin responded with an is that so and a nod, then led everyone outside.

"Ooh."

Gasps of surprise could be heard again. The reason being there were the five-colored golems' subordinates Ruby-100, Aqua-100, Topaz-100, Peridot-100, and Amethyst-100 standing in a row wearing aprons.

"These are the five-colored golem maids. From the right, they're Ruby, Aqua, Topaz, Peridot, and Amethyst. They've been named after the colors of their eyes."

While saying so, in the back of his mind Jin considered altering the color of their clothes next time they change.

"Lo- lovely maids, huh."

Beana said with a slightly strained voice as you might expect. Elsa looked a bit drawn back too.

Despite being golems, since every one of them was a female model, the two may have been seriously worried about Jin's disposition.

"This way, please."

Reinhardt was accompanied by Amethyst-100, Elsa by Aqua-100, and Beana by Ruby-100, and the group sat at a round table.

"I hope you like the tea."

Peridot-100 said and served tea for everyone, while Topaz-100 served some Pelshka fruit.

“Hmm? Hey, this tea is similar to the good tea I had in Cline Kingdom.”

Something you’d expect only Reinhardt who’s gone around to several countries would say.

“Aah, It’s been a while since I last ate some of Jin’s Pelshka”

Beana being Beana, she was in a good mood after having refrigerator-cooled Pelshka.

Finally, Elsa asked,

“Jin, have you been living alone here all this time?”,

While relishing the taste of the tea.

“Yes, ever since my teacher passed away.”

Because Jin’s predecessor hadn’t been around since Jin arrived at Hourai Island, it wasn’t technically a lie.

“Aren’t you lonely?”

It seemed like there was worry in Elsa’s eyes when she asked that, but,

“I’m not, because I’ve got Reiko and the others, I guess.”

After hearing Jin’s response Elsa got seriously worried. But again,

“But after all I wanted some company, so I tried going to Blue Land and Port Rock.”,

Hearing those words relieved Elsa, as she thought he could still be saved.

“Right, if you live in a place like this, your common sense will become strange, no?”

That was Beana. It seemed like she remembered the time she first met Jin.

“Jin, have you made a lot of golems and such?”

Reinhardt’s interests were in Magi Craftsmanship through and through.

With a mood like that, while drinking tea and eating Pelshkas, the conversation got lively.

Reinhardt talked shop and Elsa wanted to know more about Jin.

Beana was interested in the island.

After talking about various things and having drunk the tea, Jin was soon about to show them around the mansion when Elsa asked,

“Jin-kun, bathroom. Where?”

In an instant Jin realized what she meant.

“S-Sorry! Soleil, please show her. Explain how to use it too.”

He instructed Soleil. It was a necessary measure since there was no way Jin could do the explaining.

“Um, me too.”

Beana stood up, and so Luna was asked to escort her.

“...Oh...I messed up.”

After the two left Jin was at his wit's end.

During the journey, the carriages were stopped about every two hours to take a break. It went unspoken that those occasions were used to go to the toilet.

But, as a result for the lack of consideration for that, the girls had to ask about it aloud.

“Jin, don't worry about Elsa. She's been upfront like that always.”

Reinhardt tried to console Jin, but it just made Jin sink a bit deeper into the feeling of failure.

It was simply bad consideration by the hosting party.

After a long while Jin remembered the customer service training he had a long time ago back on Earth, where when welcoming female guests he was told to make sure to first casually walk them by the toilets.

At that time.

“Eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeh!!”

A suprised voice could be heard.

“Ah, isn’t that Beana’s voice? As I thought, it was surprising.”

Jin said, with an expression as if he thought the reaction was natural. That made Reinhardt ask Jin,

“Jin, that was Miss Beana’s voice, right? What in the world happened? You don’t seem confused, so were you expecting it?”

Before Jin could answer Elsa returned.

“....Jin, kun. That was great. I want one at home too.”

She said. Reinhardt’s face was full of questions. Then Beana came back too.

“Jijijijin, Whawhawhat was that toilet! The toilet was too amazing! It wasn’t even on the level of a toilet any more!”

She went on and on.

“Calm down. A girl shouldn’t be yelling toilet, toilet repeatedly.”

After Jin pointed it out, Beana became bright red and shut her mouth.

Reinhardt still had a baffled look on his face, and when Elsa noticed it she said,

“Rai-nii, if you try it too you’ll understand. It was amazing.”

“Hm, is that so?”

Therefore, Reinhardt too went to try the toilet, led by Soleil.

And as expected,

“Jin! That was ground-breaking! Certainly I want to bring it to my home, no, my country! Please cooperate with me!”

He said after running back.

The toilets that Jin had installed on Kunlun and Hourai Islands were so-called Western toilets. The bowl was made out of white quartz, and a [Cleanup] Magi Formula was inscribed on the surface of the seat.

A [Surface Treatment] was applied to prevent anything from sticking to it, and a water magic formula was used for flushing.

Because there was no paper (he didn't make any) it had a so-called bidet.

If one used it for the first time, it wasn't strange to make a noise like the one before.

Drying with warm air was also accomplished with magic, and the disposal of the waste was handled with disassembling it with [Decomposition], and removing the smell with [Deodorant].

Since in this world the standard for commoners is a pit, and for nobles it's the so-called chamber pot, it's no wonder that all of the three were shocked.

CHAPTER 6

THREE SIZES

Jin suddenly had an idea and said to leave the talk about the toilets for later, then showed the group into the mansion.

First was the ground floor. They entered the entrance hall from the southern entrance. Inside were stairs down to the basement and up to the second floor.

Left to the stairs was the toilet. And on the right, the bathroom.

“This bath is a hot spring.”

Jin said, and everyone looked puzzled. As he expected, things like hot springs didn’t seem popular.

“Let’s see, if you dig deep underground, with any luck you can find a hot water reservoir.”

“Oh, I see.”

They seemed to understand with just a bit of explanation.

Even more to the right, that’s to say on the east side of the mansion, was the kitchen and the dining room.

On the opposite side of the entrance hall was the workshop and the storeroom.

“I kind of want to see Jin’s workshop.”

Reinhardt said, and as Elsa and Beana also seemed like they wanted to see it, Jin decided to show the workshop first.

The workshop had an area of about 20 tatami mats. The workbench that (was made to look like it) had seen years of use was the first thing that caught the eye.

The tools that (were ordered to be built as though they) were worn from use were numerous. Raw materials formed rows on the shelves.

“Hmm, this is magnificent. Or perhaps should I say, enviably perfect.”

“ ... ”

Reinhardt voiced his admiration, and Beana had no words.

Elsa didn't really understand, but was looking around restlessly at the curious things on display.

Then Jin spoke of the idea he had in his mind.

“Um, I was thinking that I'd show you around the mansion and its surroundings this morning, and then show you around the island on the evening, but...”

“Hm, isn't that fine?”

Reinhardt didn't have any objections

“Since there's going to be a lot of walking, I was going to have us ride the golem horses from before, but the girls are wearing skirts, right?”

Elsa was wearing her regular clothes, but nonetheless that included a long skirt that reached below her knees.

Beana's outfit had a pleated skirt that reached just to her knees.

“So if you'd like, I'll make some pants usable for horse riding as a gift.”

After Jin said so, Beana immediately asked,

“Eh!? Jin, you know how to sew too?”

“No, well, if I had to decide between if I know or don't know how, I'd say I do, but since this time I'd be making them with Craft Magic I don't know if you could call it sewing.”

Jin said and picked up some leather from a shelf.

“Hm!? Could that be the leather of a magical beast?”

Just like Reinhardt to immediately guess right what the material is.

“Yep. I thought this would be the best.”

“It’s best and everything, but isn’t it a precious rare material? You can’t find magical beasts around here, right?”

So that’s the case after all, Jin thought, but didn’t say a word about it.

“Well, my teacher gathered a lot of it after all.”

With that, he dodged the issue.

And thus it was decided that Jin’ll make pants out of white leather for Elsa, and dark red leather for Beana.

“Oh, Reiko, sorry, but could you measure the sizes of the two?”

As you’d expect, Jin hesitated to do the measuring himself.

“Yes, Father.”

It seemed like Reiko only expressionlessly stared at the two, then,

“It is done. Elsa-san’s height is 160 centimeters, and her sizes starting from the top are: 79, 54, 80. Beana-san is 157 centimeters. From the top, 78, 55, 79.”

“Eh...”

Beana was surprised to hear her height suddenly stated out loud when she wasn’t even sure about it herself.

Elsa gave an impression of “is that so?” as she looked around at her body.

“Hey Reiko, don’t just throw out numbers like that openly.”

After hearing that, Jin was also puzzled about how he should react.

Reinhardt then asked,

“I understand the height, but what where the numbers after that?”

He wanted clarification.

“Yes. I want to know it too.”

It didn't seem like Elsa really understood either.

“Honestly, me too. I understand the height was spot on, but what did the numbers after that mean?”

When asked, Jin was a little embarrassed,

“In that order they're the bust, waist, and hip measurements, but I wonder if it's okay to just say so...”,

He said, but the instant the answer was heard Beana turned red, and Elsa blushed too.

“Wha, whawhawhawha... Jin's a pervert!”

“Jin-kun, lewd.”

Hearing the two say so, Jin reflexively yelled,

“How am I the one to blame here!”

Basically it had happened because Reiko had been ordered to measure their own bodies' sizes, or so it seemed.

“Hmm, somehow they seemed unsatisfied with the explanation.”

While saying so, Jin cut the leather. For some reason, Reinhardt was looking with admiration at the template sheet that had been made out of a thin board.

“I see, if you use a template like that, you can make multiple copies with only small differences in them!”

Judging from Reinhardt's reaction, in this world where paper was valuable the concept of pattern paper didn't exist, or at least wasn't generally known.

In reality too, template boards and machine tools are used in combination to make

various products. Although nowadays they're becoming obsolete because computer controls have become mainstream.

Getting back to the subject.

After cutting the magic beast leather, Jin used the Craft Magic [Joint] to shape it. After making belts of the same color too, he was finished.

"I'm done."

Seeing the skill with which it took only 30 minutes to sew two pants, the three were impressed.

"Now, you can have these and... Another room would be better for changing clothes."

And so Jin led Elsa and Beana to the dressing room of the bathroom to change clothes, handed over the pants and went outside the room to wait.

"A present from Jin. Eheh."

When it was just the two of them, Beana excitedly took off her skirt and put on the pants.

Elsa simply changed silently.

"Jin, how is it?"

Beana who changed faster than Elsa went to show off to Jin who was waiting outside.

Due to the somewhat flexible material it was made out of, the pants followed the body shape without causing exhilaration, rather giving a somewhat healthily sensual feel in the end.

"Jin-kun, I've put it on."

Elsa came out too, and did a little turn-around on the spot.

"It's very easy to move in. Thank you.",

She said. Beana had been impatient. She forgot to give thanks again.

“Ah, Ji-Jin, thanks! I’ll take good care of these!”

“That’s good. They suit both of you nicely.”

The three then returned to the workshop where Reinhardt was waiting.

Speaking of Reinhardt, he was walking around in the workshop, looking at and touching things, so he hadn’t gotten bored at all.

“Oh, that was quick. It would’ve been fine to take your time.”,

He said something like that.

“There’s no way it was going to take long.”,

Elsa rebutted as if it was natural.

CHAPTER 7

COMMON SENSE, LACK OF COMMON SENSE

Next, the group was guided to the second floor of the mansion.

Climbing up the stairs from the entrance hall they arrived at the second floor's hall. On the east side there was Jin's room and his teacher's (dummy) room. The library and storeroom were there too.

On the west, there were the guest rooms and the toilet. In addition, the golem maids' waiting room was there.

"Is this Jin's room?"

The Japanese-style room was approximately eight tatami mats in size, and tatami mats had been laid on the floor.

"Oh, take off your shoes."

Jin advised, first took his own shoes off and then plopped himself down on the tatami floor.

"Huh, so it's a floor that lets you do that sort of thing. May I?"

Still wearing the pants, Beana also took her shoes off and laid on the tatami floor.

"Ah, it's got a somewhat good scent."

Since the face of the tatami mat had been woven from pseudo soft rush, it had the scent of soft rush.

"Really?"

Elsa took her shoes off too, and in the same manner plopped herself down on the floor. Jin was sandwiched with her and Beana on the other side.

"It feels pleasantly cool. But not too chilly."

“I see, it’s very nice when you take your shoes off!”

Reinhardt had taken even his socks off, and was enjoying the feeling of the tatami mats while barefoot.

“But how do you sleep? No matter how I look at it, it will be cold during the night as is.”

When Beana asked the obvious question, Jin got up and opened the closet door.

“When it’s time to sleep I lay out this futon.”

Jin explained, and Beana got up and came over to him, and with his permission tried touching the futon.

“Eh, what’s this? It’s so soft and fluffy! It’s not stuffed with feathers, right?”

“Let me see.”

Reinhardt also tried touching the futon, and,

“Hm, what is this? It feels like it’s been woven from fine thread. It also resembles felt a bit, but the softness and flexibility are completely different.”

Finally, Elsa touched the futon.

“Soft and fluffy. I want to lie down on it.”

She said, so Jin took the futon out and laid it on the floor.

“Go ahead.”

The first one to throw herself down on it was Elsa.

“Amazing. It feels more comfortable than feathers. The body sinks too much into down-filled mattresses but this is different.”

“M-me too!”

Not to be outdone, Beana also threw herself down on the futon.

“Ah, it’s true, this is amazing! It can’t compare with a straw mattress!”

After saying that, she noticed the difference between her and Elsa and held her tongue.

“Hmm, what on earth could the material be? I mean the cloth of this futon. It’s not linen or wool. It even feels better to the touch than silk.”

Reinhardt tilted his head in puzzlement as he felt the cover of the futon and looked at its luster.

“It’s silk woven by a Ground Caterpillar.”

Jin told him the answer as it seemed if he didn’t, Reinhardt would be troubled by it forever.

“What! Ground Caterpillar you say!? Isn’t that a devil beast that’s been said to have gone extinct!”

They say the same about Ground Spiders, but their food is Magic Energy, not meat. They don’t attack people either unless attacked first.

But because of their appearance they became targets for extermination, and nowadays they only barely survive deep underground in some remote regions.

But at the same time, several of them live in the caves beneath Hourai Island, since the predecessor knew of their silk’s usefulness, and gave them shelter. And so, after Jin’s inheritance their raising was also under investigation.

Under Topaz’s leadership, experiments to see if it is possible to use an Ether Converter to bestow Magic Energy into the mine tunnels after the ore has been extracted were underway.

“Ugh, a devil beast’s silk...”

Beana seemed a little drawn back after hearing that, and got up from the futon. Elsa still seemed to just idle around peacefully.

“The pants Jin-kun gave are made from a devil beast’s leather. Even normal silk is from the the thread woven by a bug. So to dislike a devil beast’s silk is weird.”

“Tha- That’s right! This feels so good to the touch too!”

Beana said to Elsa, and laid down a second time on the futon.

“In that case, is the stuffing of the futon same too?”

Reinhardt seemed to understand that the material for the stuffing was the same.

“Uh-huh. It’s devil silk wadding.”

Wadding made out of Ground Caterpillar’s silk, or rather made out of a devil beast’s silk, and so it was devil silk wadding.

“I see, devil silk wadding, huh?”

Reinhardt said, and his face suddenly became serious.

“Jin, I’ll give you some advice as a friend. Your techniques, and the materials of this, Kunlun Island was it? It would be better for you to not show them off in the outside world too much.”

He said. The current Reinhardt had the face of a diplomat.

“Rai-nii, what do you mean?”

Elsa seemed to be bothered by what he said, and she stopped idling on the futon and got up next to Jin and asked.

Reinhardt thought about what words to use to explain it to Elsa.

“Jin’s techniques are different. They’re outstanding. And all the materials he’s got are extremely precious and expensive. If it became known, it’s possible the economy could be thrown into chaos.”

He stopped the words there and looked at Elsa. After seeing her nod her head he continued.

“Any country would assemble everything together to corral Jin. Then they would plunder the materials here.”

“That’s terrible.”

Reinhardt nodded at Elsa's fretful reply.

"Yes, that's right. And so, Jin, you need to understand the standards of the world."

"That's certainly true."

Jin replied to Reinhardt, and nodded.

He knew that his own sensibility differed.

He knew his technical standards were high.

He also suspected that the resources saved on Hourai Island could threaten this world's economy.

Even so, he was grateful that Reinhardt didn't mince his words.

"Thanks, Reinhardt. I'll be careful about the materials. I'd like you to teach me about the standard level of things from now on."

When Jin said so, Reinhardt returned to his usual mood and laughed,

"I naturally will! And I'd also like you to teach me your techniques!"

Again his face became serious.

"To be frank, as a diplomat I should be saying, 'I want you to join our country', but, well."

He said, then again laughed,

"But I still want get on with Jin as a friend. So I'll say this, 'Drop in for a visit at Shouro Empire'"

"Didn't I already agree to that?",

Jin said, to which Reinhardt replied,

"Is that so, that's good then. To tell you the truth, I was worried that you'd settle down

in this house, and say you're not going to travel any more."

Jin said that's not the case, and added that he's got no intention to break the promise he'd made.

After hearing that, Reinhardt returned to his normal mood, and Elsa too had a relieved look on her face.

"Everyone, as it will soon be noon, the meal preparations are underway. Please follow me."

Peridot came and said so, and everyone moved to the first-floor dining room.

However, Beana seemed reluctant to part from the futon, and kept looking back and back as they left.

CHAPTER 8

A GOOD BATH

The lunch served white bread, fish karaage, vegetable salad, and Citran juice. The dessert was Pelshka fruit.

“Umm, could this pure white bread be...”

“Yes, we performed the peeling.”

Reinhardt was surprised by the whiteness of the bread, because the golem maids had diligently peeled the chaff off the wheat with their hands.

The girls’s special quality was to be able to continue such menial work far longer than humans.

“...Delicious.”

Beana had a mouthful, and gave her opinion on the flavor.

“But Jin, when you ate at my place, you said next to nothing while you ate. If you usually eat tasty things like this, how come you were so okay with it?”

“Oh. I’m not very picky. I’ve got a habit of just being grateful that I’ve got something to eat.”

“That’s, how should I say this, remarkable...”

Beana had some strange admiration.

“This is delicious.”

It looked like the karaage was to Elsa’s tastes.

Reinhardt’s interest was in the taste of the salad dressing,

“Something in this salad’s taste makes me feel like I’ve had this somewhere before...”

He sounded like a gourmet in some respects.

“It’s fish sauce I got from Port Rock.”

Jin said, and,

“Oh! That’s it! It’s that taste! I see, so there’s a way like this to combine it with spices too!”

He received praise again. Things like Jin’s various Japanese style dressings he made in the orphanage were his forte.

“But Jin, you said you’ve lived all your life here, right?”

“? Yep.”

Beana suddenly asked.

“Do you grow wheat and such on this island? Or do you buy it? If you buy it, doesn’t that mean you’ve been to Blue Land quite a while back?”

“Uh.”

Having the contradiction caused by the food pointed out to him, Jin was flustered. Reiko came to his rescue.

“Beana-san, if the Warp Gate’s adjustments and such went poorly it would be dangerous. That’s why it was primarily me who went to stealthily buy wheat and other things. The time Father went to Blue Land and met you was only after the adjustments were perfected.”

“Ah, so that’s how it is... What would happen if the adjustments weren’t done properly?”

“You would teleport into an unexpected place.”

“...I shouldn’t have asked.”

It seemed like Warp Gates became somewhat scary.



After lunch, they enjoyed tea at ease, and finally the tour around Kunlun Island began.

Everyone got on a golem horse and began the trip around the island.

The three who weren't used to riding like Jin were guided by the golem maids that accompanied them during the teatime. Reinhardt had Amethyst-100, Elsa had Aqua-100, and finally Beana had Ruby-100.

They couldn't possibly see everything, so they went towards the mining site in the west. There was a hill in the place where the mining tunnels were, and it commanded a nice view.

"This horse is interesting after you get used to it."

It looked like Elsa liked the horse golem.

"This one also moves wonderfully. Just like a real one."

Unlike on modern Earth with its high-speed cameras, analyzing the walk of a four-legged animal is normally impossible. And that's why animal-model golems had somewhat awkward movements that looked unnatural.

For that reason Reinhardt's admiration could be said to have been just natural.

After an hour of enjoying the scenery... Although it was mostly just grassy plains, fields of bamboo, sparse woods and wilderness with nothing much to look at, but in any case, the group arrived at the mining site.

There, Army golems from 91 to 100 were working, and the sight was overwhelming. It was finally the debut of the male golem models.

"This is terrific."

It was the place where dug up metals and crystals were sorted into piles.

Magi Crystals were carefully stored in a warehouse with a roof, while Magi Stones were stored together with other Magi Stones.

“As I thought, having a mine exclusively for one’s use is amazing.”

“I only succeeded it from my teacher, though.”

That wasn’t true. On Hourai Island that may be the case, but here on Kunlun Island the exploitation had only started during Jin’s era.

“Your teacher...Adrianna-dono was it? She must’ve been a great person.”

When Reinhardt said so, even though it was just for a moment, Reiko had a glad look on her face.

“There will be a good view from top of that mountain.”

The guide Soleil told them so, and everyone started ascending the hill with their horses.

The climbing came to an end after around five minutes, and to the west was the sea. Beyond the clear afternoon horizon tiny silhouettes of islands could be seen.

“Ooh, the sea’s beautiful.”

“Truly. Could Io Island be nearby?”

Reinhardt and Elsa seemed to be reminiscing about the golem boat contest.

When Jin told them that it doesn’t seem like Io Island can be seen from here, the two were disappointed.

Beana on the other hand was as if it was her first time seeing the sea; she only stared without words.

“Pretty...”

Nevertheless, it felt as if a voice like that could be heard.

They were like that for a while, but they couldn’t stay on the summit forever, and after calling out to Beana they descended.

“Jin, it was good to come here. Thanks.”,

Beana sighed and muttered at the back of the line.



As they came back to the mansion, the sun was already starting to set. The sundial in front of the mansion was at nearly four.

“Now then, Reinhardt, isn’t it time to return soon? Or are you going to stay the night?”

Jin asked, and Reinhardt was considering what to do with a pensive look on his face. Then,

“Stay.”

Elsa expressed her wishes in a single word, and as Beana also said she would stay Reinhardt had no other option than to stay too.

“In that case, by all means use the hot spring.”,

Jin said.

“Yes, that. I wanted to try it.”,

Elsa said happily. She had seen a glimpse of the hot spring while in the changing room changing to pants.

Following the etiquette of ladies first, the girls entered the bath first. Soleil and Luna went along as assistants.

“Woow...”

The bathtub was around 4 meters in diameter, made of marble and filled to the brim with hot water. Because the water flowed in and out through a structure in the bottom of the tub, hardly any dirt accumulated.

This one was a simple alkaline hot spring. They are easy to get into and causes only a

small mellow sensation. They're also good for your skin.

The two entered the bath after having Soleil and Luna pour hot water on them to prepare them for the bath.

"Aah, it feels good."

Beana who rarely had opportunities to bathe simply enjoyed it.

"This hot bath. It makes the skin feel smooth. Is this what a hot spring does?"

Elsa noticed the difference from a regular hot bath, and asked Luna.

"Yes. Father said that because of the weak alkalinity it is good for the skin."

"Weak alkalinity?"

It was Greek to her, but she understood the part about the water being good for the skin.

She then stretched her body in the water, and tried caressing her feet and arms.

Elsa had a glance at Beana's direction, then at herself in comparison, and for some reason had a relieved look on her face.



“Beana, was it?”

“Y- Yes, Miss Elsa.”

Beana was surprised when Elsa spoke to her.

“You don’t need to be so humble. You and me, we’re both Jin-kun’s guests here.”

“Y- Yes, thank you very much...”

Even when asked, it wasn’t so easy for the commoner Beana to change her behavior like that.

“What’s your relationship with Jin-kun?”

“Uh, with Jin?”

Elsa nodded to confirm, and said she was interested in how Jin acted when she wasn’t around.

“Let’s see, was it one and a half months ago? It began at a Magi Tool sales stand in Blue Land. Then...”

Beana told her about how she met Jin, and how she then asked him to help her because of the repayment of her debt and her siblings’ illness, about the lighter and refrigerator’s development, and about popcorn and the water heater, in that order.

Elsa listened attentively until Beana’s story came to an end and said,

“Jin-kun is Jin-kun after all. No matter where, he’s the same.”

Beana felt a sad feeling in her chest when she saw Elsa’s faint smile as she said those words.

CHAPTER 9

THE LEGEND

“Ah, this too is exceptional.”

After the girls got out, Jin and Reinhardt took a bath.

“Jin, you’re really mysterious.”

Reinhardt chatted while stretching in the bath.

“It’s almost as if you weren’t born in this world.”

When Reinhardt said so, Jin’s heartbeat was set racing.

“No, it’s not a figure of speech.”

Reinhardt continued while looking at the steam-covered ceiling.

“You may not know of it, but there’s a legend in my country.”

“A legend?”

Jin began to listen attentively after hearing that word.

“...It’s said that beyond the sun in the sky there is an another world.”

“What did you say?”

Jin asked again to confirm if he had heard correctly.

“It might sound unbelievable and you might ask how a world could exist in a place like that, but, well, it’s a legend after all.”

Reinhardt waved a hand in front of his face as if to say he doesn’t believe in it himself, and continued,

“It’s said that our ancestors came from that world.”

“Came from?”

“Mh-hm. Whether it was to pioneer a new world or to run away from the old one, the legend doesn’t say.”

Since Jin wasn’t familiar with such a legend, he was a little interested.

So he said that it’s an interesting legend, and Reinhard replied,

“That’s unexpected. Are you interested? If so, there should be a storyteller who can tell you about it in Celuroa Kingdom which I’m planning to pass through after this.”

After saying so, his attitude suddenly changed.

“By the way Jin, on a different topic, what do you think about Miss Beana and Elsa?”

“Huh?”

Jin couldn’t keep up with the sudden 180 degree turn in the conversation and was befuddled.

“I mean, even as her cousin I think Elsa doesn’t look so bad, and that Miss Beana is also not just a little cute, don’t you think?”

After clarification Jin finally wrapped his head around it, and thought about the two.

“I suppose so, Beana is kind of like... a troublesome younger sister?”

“And Elsa?”

“She’s... Well, like a slightly unreliable younger sister.”

After the reply, Reinhardt wore a smile that looked worried, happy, and also bitter.

“I see, so the girls are like little sisters for Jin.”

He mumbled.

It’s a bit of a digression, but Soleil and Luna heard what Jin had said, and when they told Reiko about it afterwards she had the finest smile of relief and joy on her face.



The evening menu was a stew with vegetables and chicken, fried fish, plain omelette, salad, and baked Applele for dessert.

“Oh, this is good. Fried, you say?”

“Yes. The fish is covered with wheat flour, dipped in beaten eggs, coated with bread crumbs and fried in oil.”

“Huh, so there’s such a way of cooking too.”

It seemed like it was Reinhardt’s and needless to say Beana’s first time having the ever-popular fried food.

Elsa looked to be enjoying the baked Appleles, and casually asked Reiko for another serving.

Jin was wondering if something happened to Reiko, since she seemed to be in a good mood.

“So this is baked Applele. It really is delicious.”

Some time ago, Jin mentioned making baked Appleles but wasn’t able to as there wasn’t enough sugar.

“It sounds easy to make. I’ll try making it for my siblings once I go back home.”

“Speaking of them, how are the conditions of your younger brother and sister?”

Beana explained that they were already in good health, and currently were helping clean Earl Kuzuma’s garden.

“I’m indebted to the Earl for many things.”,

And she finished the conversation so.

Meanwhile, Elsa was having her third plate of baked Appleles.

“Hey Elsa, are you going to be fine after eating that much?”,

Reinhardt said, as expected, after he saw what was going on.

“I’ll be fine. Because this will be the last one.”,

She said and ate some baked Applele.

“Haha, I’m very happy that you like it.”,

Jin said with laughter and he too stuffed his mouth with baked Applele.

“Even though it’s a bed, the futon is the same!”

The guest rooms had Western Style beds, but the mattresses were futons made with devil silk wadding. Beana was jumping with joy.

“Ooh, this sleepwear is made out of a Ground Caterpillar’s silk too, right? It feels really good to the touch!”

Ruby-100 left the room quietly.

“I wanted to sleep on a tatami mat.”

Elsa muttered, and Aqua-100 carried a spare tatami mat in and laid it on the floor for her, making a make-shift Japanese-style room.

“Thanks.”

Elsa said, and Aqua-100 bowed and made her exit. Elsa threw herself down on the tatami mat,

“...Happiness.”

After enjoying the tatami mat’s sense of touch, Elsa got into the futon and fell asleep with a satisfied look on her face.

“Thank you, this is already enough.”

Reinhardt faced Amethyst-100 who had folded the taken-off clothes and said.

Even in the Earl's mansion, Reinhardt was in the habit of taking care of as many of his own things as he could, and so would dress himself in the devil silk sleepwear, he explained to excuse himself.

"Understood, if anything comes up please call for me."

Amethyst-100 said and left. While looking at her retreating figure, Reinhardt felt a bit interested in Jin's golems that behaved entirely like humans.

"I want to absolutely never make enemies of Jin."

Those were Reinhardt's honest feelings.



"...It's a story like that."

Meanwhile, in his room, Jin told Reiko about the legend he heard from Reinhardt.

"I'm very sorry, but I haven't heard of such a story."

Reiko said she doesn't know of it either.

Then, was it a legend that was known only in some places?

"If I've got a chance to hear about it, I'd like to hear about it in more detail."

He had learned recently from Reinhardt that the common knowledge was that the world was round, but that such an old legend would tell of another world beyond the sun, or rather, in space, there was no way he wouldn't be interested.

"Maybe a long time ago people flew in the air."

Jin muttered.

If one day he could go to space, he would try it, Jin thought while remembering the picture books and television clips he had seen as a child.

CHAPTER 10

TO BLUE LAND'S FORT

The next morning, Jin got up early and was looking outside from the second floor veranda.

It was already March. The salty breeze blew from the distant sea and brought the smell of spring with it.

“Jin-kun, good morning.”

Jin turned to face the voice, and it was Elsa. She was still wearing the devil silk sleepwear.

“Good morning. Did you sleep well?”,

He asked, Elsa said yes and continued,

“Tatami. Futon. Very comfortable to sleep in.”

Jin was felt relieved by the answer, then asked,

“Eh? Tatami?”

Elsa nodded.

“I voiced my whims and the golem maid laid out one.”

“Aqua did? Huh, wasn't that thoughtful.”

Jin admired her volition. Since the golems had a Magi Link with Jin and Reiko, it seemed like they were growing little by little.

“This is a nice place.”

Elsa said as she stood next to Jin and looked out at the scenery from the veranda.

“Haha, thanks.”

Jin responded, and because Elsa was still her sleepwear, asked,

“Aren’t you cold?”,

And took off his coat.

Elsa accepted it while blushing slightly.

“...Thank you... Back then too, you lent me your coat.”

She said.

“Today, I’ll be taking you all back to Blue Land after breakfast.”

“Mmh. I actually wanted to stay longer, but I guess I have to.”

While saying so, she inched her body closer to Jin.

“Good morning! Jin!”

A cheerful voice. In a flash Elsa made space between her and Jin, and looked around. Jin also looked around.

“Good morning, Beana. You’re up early.”

“Yes, the morning of the commoners is early.”

Beana said and glimpsed at Elsa who was wearing Jin’s coat. Beana who had already changed her clothes to her ordinary ones whispered,

(I should’ve come in my sleepwear too...)

“Huh?”

It seemed like she was too quiet to be heard.

“I- It was nothing! What a good view this place has.”

“Right? Look, you can see the sea in the distance.”

“Oh, that’s true. That’s the sea isn’ tit.”

The morning was a peaceful time.



After finishing breakfast, Jin again took the lead of the golem horses with Koma, and they warped to Blue Land.

Since this time everyone was wearing pants, unlike yesterday everyone had their own horse to ride.

In less than one hour they had arrived at the edge of the forest.

“Sorry about this, but around here we need to get off the horses.”

Jin remembered well what Reinhardt had said yesterday. It would be better for him to avoid unnecessarily displaying his craft.

“I’m reluctant to part with them, though.”

Reinhardt who had given the advice was the first to dismount his horse, then Elsa and Beana followed.

“Koma, good work.”

Jin said, and told Koma and the others to go back,

“Now then, let’s go.”

He said, and began to walk towards Blue Land. Reiko who was carrying the luggage followed, while Elsa and Beana hurriedly jumped towards each of Jin’s hands.

While looking at the spectacle, Reinhardt walked at ease by himself.

Spring was so close that gradually grass was beginning to grow around Blue Land, and as they walked they could smell spring.

“Jin, will you be staying at my place tonight? I want you to see Nana and Raldo who’ve become healthy.”

Beana said while pulling on Jin’s arm.

“He can’t. Jin-kun is Rai-nii’s guest. He’s going to stay with us.”

Elsa didn't draw back either.

"Well, in any case since Jin's staying at Earl Kuzuma's place, Beana-dono, you'll have time to introduce Jin to your younger brother and sister."

Reinhardt was unable to just watch and said so, and the two calmed down.

Unexpectedly Reiko's mood wasn't spoiled. It was likely because she was relieved (?) yesterday when Jin had said the two are like little sisters to him.

After walking a little, Blue Land's ramparts came into sight.

"Oh, they've come to pick us up already."

In front of the walls, two carriages, the butler Adberg, and nanny Mine could be seen.

After Mine saw the group, her expression changed and she came running.

"Young ladyyyyyyy!"

Like a short-distance sprint runner, Mine quickly ran to and hugged Elsa who was next to Jin.

"You're safe!? Nothing happened to you, right!? Why did you stay overnight without permission!!",

She kept on rapidly talking. Reinhardt smiled bitterly and said,

"Wait a minute Mine, since she was with me it wasn't without permission, right?"

But Mine shook her head,

"No, it is most unreasonable for an unmarried woman to stay overnight at a man's house.",

She said and didn't give up.

"Mine, that's called not having confidence in young lady and Reinhardt-sama. How many times must I tell you before you understand?"

The butler Adberg said. Moreover, he continued,

“Jin-sama is Reinhardt-sama’s guest with an equal standing. If you look down on him that much, aren’t you just insulting Reinhardt-sama?”

After he had said all that, Mine bitterly hanged her head in shame,

“...Yes... I am very sorry, young lady, Reinhardt-sama...”,

And apologized.

“Mine, if you’re going to apologize, then apologize to Jin-sama too.”

When Adberg said so, Mine bit her lips, and while shaking turned to bow her head to Jin and apologized in a small voice.

After she apologized Jin could breathe a sigh of relief, as he had been worried about how soon Reiko who emitted a thirst for blood would jump on Mine.

“Jin, Mine means no harm, so let it go with this apology. She just has a bad habit of going off the rails with things regarding Elsa.”

“That’s right. Mine has always only worried about me.”

Reinhardt and Elsa were sticking up for Mine, but Jin didn’t particularly care about it any more.

Jin said so, and began to walk. While still attached to Beana by the right arm.

When Elsa saw it, she looked at Mine like she was bearing a grudge.



Reinhardt, Elsa, Adberg, and Mine were in one, while Jin, Reiko, and Beana were in another carriage, and they headed inside Blue Land’s fort.

Jin, whose first time it was in Blue Land’s fort, was looking around here and there with great interest.

Beana saw it and said,

“Come to think of it, wasn’t this your first time inside the walls?”

“That’s right.”

“You know, I get the feeling the inside is actually divided into the noble town to the right-hand-side of the main street, and to the wealthy people’s and high-class shops’ area on the left side.”

Jin, who was told so, again looked at the cityscape around him.

The carriage was traveling on the main street, and indeed on the right side there were mansions, and on the left side there were shops here and there.

“Earl Kuzuma’s mansion is a lot closer to the heart of the city.”

That’s because Earl Kuzuma is that important to Blue Land, Jin guessed.

“Oh, there it is. That’s Earl Kuzuma’s residence.”

Beana said and pointed a finger at the remarkably elegant mansion that had come to sight.

CHAPTER 11

REQUEST

“Welcome, Jin-dono.”

Earl Kuzuma was in the entrance hall to greet Jin in person. Well, it's possible that could've just been because Jin came with Reinhardt and Elsa.

“I wanted to have a proper talk with you.”

The Earl shook Jin's hand while saying so.

“You don't need to worry about Earl Guarana. The private army corps that committed the crime of assailing a commoner unjustly have been discharged. The head of the corps has been imprisoned.”

The reason Jin had left Blue Land was the trouble with Earl Guarana's private army corps. It seemed like Earl Kuzuma took measures regarding that.

Since they were a group that had caused various problems before, apparently it wasn't difficult to find them at fault for the crime.

The Earl then faced towards Reinhardt,

“Reinhardt, did you have fun at Jin-dono's base? I would've liked to go too if I hadn't had official business to do.”

Earl Kuzuma said with an expression of complete envy. He then faced Beana,

“Beana, your younger brother and sister have been worried. Hurry up and get going.”

“Ah, uh, is that so! In that case, please excuse me. Jin, see you later!”

She said, and ran towards the courtyard.

“Well, step inside.”

Earl Kuzuma guided Jin and the others at first, but midway the guide changed to

Sevanz, as the Earl went with Reinhardt and Elsa to a separate room.

“Please feel at home here.”

Jin and Reiko were given a room in the second floor. It was a very luxurious room. Since Earl Kuzuma knew that Reiko wasn't a human, he didn't prepare two rooms.

“You can see the courtyard from the window. The garden's pretty beautiful.”

Jin said while looking out at the garden. Reiko was putting the luggage in order.

He relaxed like that when a lady attendant came to summon him. The Earl wanted to have a talk.

Because there was no reason to refuse, Jin and Reiko were led by the attendant to the parlour.

The parlour was in the center of the same second floor, and had a wide balcony.

Earl and the others were on the balcony sitting around a round table, sipping tea leisurely in the early spring's sunshine.

“I've brought Jin-sama.”

The attendant who showed Jin here said and left.

“Hey Jin, the sunlight's warm over here.”

Reinhardt said and beckoned. Jin sat at the round table right between Reinhardt and Elsa. Or rather, was made to sit.

Reiko stood silently behind and to the side of Jin.

“Lewis... Oh, Lewis is Earl Kuzuma's first name, Jin.”

Reinhardt said, and explained the name structure of nobles in Egelia Kingdom.

“It goes in the order of Peerage (title) – first name – pen name – family name. The Earl's formal name is then Earl Lewis Wurtz Kuzuma.”

And finally, he went to the main subject.

“So, Lewis, won’t you tell that story you just told me to Jin too?”

Told to do so, Lewis, the Earl, said while looking at Jin,

“Our Egelia Kingdom’s king’s son, Prince Ernest is coming. He’s only the third Prince, but he loves Golems and Automata.”

He looked towards Reiko for a moment,

“In ten days a birthday party for Ernest-sama will be held, and we’ve decided to make it a ‘golem party.’”

“Golem party?”

Jin reflexively asked.

According to Earl Kuzuma’s explanation, because of the chronic labor shortage caused by the scarce population, in many nations it has become popular to employ golems, and Egelia Kingdom was no exception.

In addition, the third Prince Ernest loved golems, and apparently one third of his guards were golem soldiers.

Because of such a background, this year for the Prince’s birthday a golem party will be held, with excellent golems and Magi Craftsmen invited to attend from inside and outside the country, he said.

This was why many countries were exploring effective uses for golems.

“Reinhardt and his Schwarz Ritter also received a written invitation.”

Schwarz Ritter seemed to be quite famous. Reinhardt looked bitter and said,

“I’m happy that my Schwarz Ritter has been approved of, but unfortunately, he’s currently out of order.”

“What, he is? If you need materials, I’ll prepare as much as I can, so repair him.”

After hearing that Reinhardt looked towards Jin,

“That’s how it is. Doesn’t the party seem interesting?”

He tried to pique Jin’s interest. Since Jin had been interested from the start since hearing the story,

“Uh huh, seems interesting. I’d like to see it.”

He gave a simple reply. The Earl then responded with,

“I see, if you say so then it’s easy for me to ask.”

“Eh?”

In fact, Earl Kuzuma said, it was arranged for each of the the kingdom’s viscounts and higher-ranking nobles to have a golem with them.

“And so, I would be obliged if Jin-dono could manufacture a golem for me. I’ll get you any materials I can.”

Finally, Earl added that unfortunately it’s still impossible for Beana to produce a golem.

When he put it like that, Jin didn’t have the option to refuse.

It should be interesting to see if it’s possible to make a high-grade golem, not with the best materials of Hourai Island, but with normal materials.

“As thanks for your help, I’ll accept the task.”

He answered.

“Ah, is that so. Much obliged. What should I prepare for the reward?”

“What indeed. Please decide after seeing the completed golem.”

“Hmm, full of confidence, I see. I’m looking forward to it.”

Reinhardt was looking at the exchange between Earl and Jin with an interested, yet slightly worried looko on his face.

“Speaking of golems,”

Earl Kuzuma changed the topic slightly.

“Just yesterday afternoon, some information from Elias Kingdom came, and it seems like those golems are somehow involved with Celuroa Kingdom.”

He was talking about the golems the attacker in the mountain pass employed.

“What!?”

Celuroa Kingdom was a country Reinhardt’s group had to pass through next to return home to Shouro Empire.

“I mean, well, a part of the materials, the Magi Crystals were supposedly the ones used in Celuroa Kingdom, but that doesn’t necessarily mean the golems were constructed there.”

The Earl added so as to wipe out Reinhardt’s worries.

“And then, about the golem that attacked you.”

This was about the golem that beat Schwarz Ritter

“The Elradrite it used is a product of Leonard Kingdom. But since 80% of Elradrite comes from that country it may just be natural.”

“Hmm, I think Celuroa Kingdom and Leonard Kingdom are in one way or another connected to this business.”

Reinhardt pondered not in his usual high spirits, but in a serious fashion.

“Because Celuroa Kingdom has always thought proudly that they should be the ones to succeed Dinar Kingdom.”

Reinhardt furthermore explained that some 150 years ago Celuroa Kingdom was just one of in a group of tiny nations called ‘Frenel Dukedom’ between Shouro Empire and Egelia Kingdom, which burned with the desire to expand and eventually annexed the other nations.

“But in any case, on top of having no evidence, private individuals like us can’t be expected to do much.”

Reinhardt said, and returned to his usual countenance.

After that was only chitchat.

“Really, Miss Elsa participated too?”

The topic was the golem boat competition in Port Rock. Earl Kuzuma had heard that all of the participating ship handlers were women in swimming suits.

“Hahaha, I envy the folks who could see close by Miss Elsa wearing a swimsuit.”

Elsa blushed a little because something like that was said.

When the Earl heard that Jin also took part in building the golem Marcia to be the ship handler, he asked,

“Hmm, in that case this time I’ll have you build a female type golem. The model should be... Well, how about Beana?”,

He asked things like that..

Not knowing whether or not the Earl was serious, Jin chimed in with a noncommittal answer.

Neither woman in question, Jin thought and took a glance, had much of a chest so he doubted there was any real interest.

“Jin-kun, are you thinking about something rude right now?”

Maybe due of a woman’s intuition, Elsa glared at Jin.

Rather than because of intuition, maybe the fleeting glance at Elsa’s chest was noticed.

“Now then, lunchtime should be around now.”

The pleasant chat continued until lunchtime, and when the sun indicated it was noon they moved to the dining room.

After lunch, Jin designed his golem, while Reinhardt started Schwarz Ritter's repairs.

The place was obviously Beana's workshop.

"Ah, Jin, Reinhardt-sama, welcome. I heard about the golems from the Earl."

"Jin onii-chan!"

"Jin nii-chan"

Beana and her siblings came to greet them. Nana's and Raldo's complexions had both improved quite a bit, and they had also put on some weight.

"Wow, aren't you two energetic."

"Yeah!"

"Now, you two, it's work from now on, go outside so you're not on the way."

"Then we'll go do the cleaning!"

Nana and Randol were pleased to meet with Jin again, but since Jin had to handle the request after this, when Beana told the two to go they obediently left to clean the courtyard.

Jin looked around the workshop and said,

"Huh, so this is Beana's workshop. It's larger than the previous one, and the tools and materials are better. What are you making now?"

"Eh? Um, you know, a Magi Tool that produces wind.

After this spring, with the summer the temperatures would increase and this area would become hot.

To cool themselves, nobles hired servants to fan them, but if there was a Magi Tool that produced wind, even commoners could get them is what she thought.

"Hmm, that may be good? So? What's your design?"

When asked, Beana triumphantly said,

“It can be done. It’s fine to just use the elementary wind magic [Breeze].”

[Breeze] only produced some wind, and was the simplest of the elementary wind magics. Since the Magic Energy consumption was small too, Beana chose it.

“Uh-huh, I think that’s fine.”

“Eheh, since I worked hard even after Jin disappeared.”

She said, while nobody noticed Elsa looking at the slightly proud Beana from the shadows.

CHAPTER 12

JIN'S GOLEM MANUFACTURING

Jin talked with Beana until the materials for the golem had been brought.

“Beana, instead of using only wind, how about using the workings of the refrigerator?”

Like that, he hinted at ideas.

“I see! The wind blowing over the ice gets cold! It'll be pleasant even during summer!”

For some reason Reinhardt joined in the conversation.

And so along with Reinhardt, the air cooler was conceived.

“In short, it'll be fine as long as you expose the wind to something cool?”

“In that case, wouldn't a shape like this work fine?”

“That's right, in that case here should be...”

And just like that, while waiting for the delivery of the materials the three finished a prototype air cooler.

“Oh...It's done.”

“...It's done indeed.”

“...Is this okay?”

Not just Jin, but Reinhardt also assisted with the air cooler. It was understandable for Beana to be worried.

“Isn't it fine? I only took part to the extents of a hobbyist.”

Reinhardt said, and Jin too clearly stated that the air cooler was Beana's work and she shouldn't worry about it.

“Th..Thank you very much, Reinhardt-sama. Thank you, Jin!”

Reinhardt said to Beana who looked apologetic while thanking him,

“It’s fine. At any rate, Beana has the makings of a good Magi Craftsman.”

He said. Beana wondered aloud if that’s so, while looking slightly happy and blushing.

“Now then, let’s build a golem!”

Jin fired himself up in front of the materials that had arrived. Reinhardt carried Schwarz Ritter in and took out a Magi Crystal for the Control Core.

“Now then, let’s start the repairs!”

Mimicking Jin, Reinhardt got fired up. Even the Earl put in a good word for them, so Beana frantically tried to learn from them.

She wondered if the design wasn’t yet finished, as Jin hadn’t started the work yet. On the other hand, Reinhardt had started the manufacture of the Control Core.

“Writing Control System. ...Writing movement control formula.”

To not to miss the procedure, Beana stuck to Reinhardt.

“....Magi Sequence okay. ...Master/Slave seal.”

And like that, the Control Core was completed.

“Alright, with this Schwarz Ritter can go back to normal. But, back to normal is too boring.”

He couldn’t get the golems he saw on Kunlun Island out of his mind. Reinhardt wanted to make Schwarz Ritter even more highly efficient.

“In addition, I don’t want to lose in the same way as last time.”

He wouldn’t let the Control Core be overwritten by a strong magical force from the outside a second time. Ever since then, Reinhardt had been continuously thinking about countermeasures.

“I wonder what would be the material that best prevents Magic Power from permeating it.”

And then, when he took a look towards Jin he wondered just when Elsa had come, as she was sitting next to Jin.

“Oh, Elsa, you came. That’s unusual, whenever I’m secluded in my workshop you never come to visit.”

When Reinhard said that, Elsa hmped and looked away.

“My goodness, that’s rude.”

While saying so, he returned his gaze to the materials in front of him, looking for a particular one. For now, there was Armor Turtle’s shell, Grand Lizard’s leather, and Helm Eagle’s feathers.

It seemed like he was trying to decide which one was most Magic Energy resistant of these.

“It’s hard to do it alone... Hey, Elsa, can you help me for a bit?”

Reinhardt called out to Elsa, but she was feigning ignorance while looking at the scrawling Jin was making which he called the golem design.

Reinhardt let out a strained laugh, and turned to nearby Beana,

“Beana, sorry but could you help me with a little experiment?”,

He said, asking her for assistance.

“Y-Yes, if you’re okay with me.”

Reinhardt then made roughly the same sized samples of all three of the prospective materials.

“Alright, please turn the palm of your hand upwards.”

He placed them on Beana’s hand, and on top of that placed a Plate.

“Just like that, write the... Well, write the magic for [Wind] onto the Plate.”

“Got it.”

While Beana was writing the magic, Reinhardt observed the flow of the Magic Energy, looking for the material that could damp the Magic Energy the most.

It was accidental, but asking Beana to assist was the right choice. If this was Jin, no matter what the material was, he would be able to write it.

And if it was Elsa, since she can't use Craft Magic she would obviously have to use regularly invoked magic for the experiment, and since the invocation time would be so short observing the Magic Energy would be difficult.

"Hmm, so Armor Turtle's shell lets Magic Energy through it the least. I should be able to use this."

Reinhardt mumbled to himself, thanked Beana, and opened up Schwarz Ritter's chest.

Schwarz Ritter's insides weren't simply hollow, but every important point was stuffed with various things.

For example, the fists were filled with steel to increase the effects of the blows, and Adamantite was stuffed into his toetips to increase the destructive power of his kicks.

Spongelike stuff filled most of his body.

"E- Excuse me, Reinhardt-sama, what is this?"

Beana didn't stay silent at the sight of an unknown material, and asked Reinhardt.

"Hm? This? This is called a Gulaschwamm, and it's a devil beast that lives on the bottom of the sea, but its dried remains are soft and flexible like this. It's a material that's just perfect for protecting the central part of a golem, the Magi Device that contains the Control Core."

But it very easily lets Magic Energy through it, he finished the explanation.

Reinhardt then took the Magi Device out from inside the Gulaschwamm, and set in the Control Core he had constructed just now.

"Alright, [Link]...Good. Now to connect this to the movement system again."

He returned the adjusted Magi Device back into the golem, and covered its surroundings with the shell of an Armor Turtle. Since Schwarz Ritter was a heavyweight to begin with, there wasn't much of a difference.

"And now the fine tuning."

99% of the work was done, and Reinhardt started on the maintenance of the external wounds Schwarz Ritter had suffered.



"Alright, I've decided."

To outside it only looked like some sort of a scribble, but Jin had been considering the plans he drew on a wooden plank he was holding. Then as if he had made his decision, with a clap, he put his hands together and stood up to get the materials.

Simultaneously, Reiko who had been silently by Jin's side until now stood up too.

"Father, what would you like me to bring?"

"Hmm, first I'd like some iron and zinc."

"Sink?"

Elsa who had been only watching until then raised her voice when she heard an unfamiliar word. Jin heard it and,

"Oh, zinc is a metal that looks like lead but isn't lead.",

He gave a simple explanation. Brass was already made in this world.

Jin didn't know what would happen if he mixed zinc with iron, but he did know that a zinc coating prevents corrosion.

"To start with, let's mix carbon to the iron to make steel."

He was able to use the carbon dioxide from the air as a carbon supply. Well, Jin was the only one who knew of the existence of carbon dioxide. The carbon content went up to about 0.8%. He then started to build the skeleton with it.

Even though it was called a skeleton, it was a much simplified version of a human's. For example, there was no ribcage or pelvis.

"This should do. Alright, [Heat Treatment]. [Hardening]. [Plating]. "

The same result as with quenching and tempering was achieved through Craft Magic, furthermore the strength was increased with [Hardening], and zinc plating added to the corrosion resistance.

The joints and other portions with surface-to-surface contact were plated with adamantite to prevent abrasion.

The aim was to build joints that were nearing human composition. By building an endoskeleton and making the armor shaped around it, it was possible to have it behave similarly to a human.

Making the exoskeleton look like a normal golem was quite difficult.

"It's a little eerie."

Elsa gave her honest impressions of the skeleton.

The simplest golem that was hollow inside that made all its movements utilizing Magic Energy had a surprisingly bad Magic Energy efficiency.

All the golems Jin had made had endoskeletons which incorporated Magical Muscles for movement.

They were similar to using pure Magic Energy for the movements in a so-called telekinetic fashion, but when utilizing the Magical Muscles the Magic Energy was used to expand and contract the muscles instead, the efficiency was higher.

"For the Magic Muscles... I guess Sand Worm's leather will do."

"I know of those."

Sand Worms were devil beasts similar to hairless caterpillars that lived in the desert, usually underground feeding on Magic Energy, but if their territory was invaded they would emerge aboveground and attack.

The reason Elsa knew was the leather was a specialty of Shouro Empire.

Devil beast material could without exception be used for things regarding Magical Energy reactions, and for example as a material for armor, for a scabbard or a hilt of a magical sword, for a magus's robes, all sorts of purposes.

Jin tore it into thin strips and bundled them up to make Magical Muscles.

Precisely when Jin was done with that, Reinhardt finished the repairs and remodeling of Schwarz Ritter, and came over to see Jin's state of affairs.

CHAPTER 13

GOLEM PANIC

“Oh my, what an interesting structure!”

Reinhardt praised Jin’s incomplete golem’s skeletal and muscular composition.

He seemed to be thinking about many things while staring at the laid down unfinished golem.

Jin didn’t particularly mind and started the construction of a Magi Device for the central part of the golem.

He grabbed a Magi Crystal and began to write the Control System.

“[Write In], Magi Sequence... Creating Magi Formula.”

Along with Reinhardt, Beana was also staring at the process intently.

“Alright, Control Core completed. Next is the Mana Driver and the Mana Tank, I suppose.”

From what Jin had seen, the golems in this world drew their Magic Energy from Mana Tanks, without exception.

On the other hand, golems Jin had made all utilized Ether Converters that absorbed the Ether in the air and converted it into Mana. Using a Mana Driver that could then be turned into various kinds of energy.

Since this time he was building it for a commission, it had to be able to be maintained without Jin, so he decided to use a Mana Tank.

Even so, Jin had no intention of using a regular Mana Tank.

“Reiko, please look for a red and a green Magi Crystal.”

“Yes, Father.”

Meanwhile, Jin prepared the exterior. Since it would contain the skeleton and the muscles, it meant armor.

Since the movable parts like joints were obviously fragile, he added overlapping thin bronze plates to cover all the openings.

It was work he'd usually perform in an instant, but since it was custom made for the Earl who also wanted Beana to learn from Jin, he took his time on purpose.

“Father, are these acceptable?”

Reiko returned holding Magi Crystals. She had a red fire-attribute Magi Crystal and a green wind-attribute Magi Crystal.

“Hmm, what are you going to do with those?”

Reinhardt spontaneously asked, and Jin told him to just wait and see and took them.

“[Fusion].”

“Wha-!?”

Reinhardt was amazed by the feat of fusing fire and wind attribute Magi Crystals together.

It was said that normally, fusing Magi Crystals of different attributes was impossible.

“Alright, it's done. ...Reinhardt, want to see?”

He handed over the just fused Magi Crystal to Reinhardt, who first checked it by sight, then by confirming the Magic Energy flow. And then.

“Erm, what. Is this!?”

Inside the Magi Crystal, the Magic Energy's activity had transformed strangely.

“Well, to put it simply, the wind fans the flames so it burns more brightly, so to speak.”

Jin quickly explained, but it wasn't something just anyone could do at a moment's

notice.

“Hmm, so when fusing, do you do it after momentarily making the Magic Energy inert?”

In spite of that, since Reinhardt was an excellent Magi Craftsman he understood more than half of the procedure Jin did.

“That’s correct. In addition, it’s necessary to advance the fusing parallel to the flow of Magic Energy.”

“I see, that was helpful. You have my thanks!”

Reinhardt was delighted, but for the Magi Craft Meister Jin it was simply common knowledge. Actually, during the predecessor’s era it was a common technique.

Everything was because of the Great Magic War. As the population decreased sharply, so did the people upholding the culture, and as such the world regressed.

Returning to the topic of the Magi Crystal with improved activity, the handling gets difficult but on the other hand Magic Energy use efficiency is good. Although, the caveat is that it’s not a match for the all-attribute Magi Crystal that’s used by Reiko.

“Alright, time to connect this thing and the Mana Driver with the Control Core.”

The central portion was getting done quickly.

“Okay, I’ll get right on on upgrading Schwarz Ritter too!”

It seemed like Reinhardt wanted to try for himself the procedure he saw Jin do.

“Ah, Beana, sorry but could you lend me a hand?”

“Y-Yes!”

With Beana as a helper, Reinhardt too tried to fuse a red and a green Magi Crystal.

Meanwhile, Elsa was watching Jin work almost wordlessly.

“Now then. Next is the head. Reiko, please get me, let’s see, two red Magi Stones should do.”

“Yes.”

Jin then began the work on the head.

He took a glance towards Beana and performed [Forming] in a single breath. Elsa’s eyes went wide when she saw it.

“Alright, I’ll install it and then fuse it. Reiko, please hand over the Magi stones.”

He inserted the Magi Stones and processed them to work as eyes. He also wrote Magi Formulas in the mouth and throat to work as vocal organs.

Of course, he also engraved Magi Formulas that could hear sound around the ear areas too.

“Let’s see, I suppose I’ll shield this one too.”

He covered the Magi Device’s surroundings with Mithril. There were a few protrusions towards each limb and the head as terminals for transmitting Magic Energy commands.

With that the insides were completed. Only the adjustment of the exterior and the finishing touches were left.

“Alright, Reiko, could you do the detailed size adjustments?”

“Yes, Father.”

Reiko also took a glance towards Beana and started on the work. Head, neck, chest, abdomen, waist. Finally the arms and legs.

“How is this, Father?”

“Yes, well done. However...”

When Jin looked at the chest area he thought it was a little lacking, and used [Forming] on just that area.

Elsa's gaze turned sharp when she saw it, but Jin didn't notice.

"Alright, this should be enough."

Jin started applying the last finishing touches and superficial changes.

This time he kept the bronze's natural color. In other words, it was reddish.

"[Hardening]. [Surface Treatment]. Now it's finally complete."

Having finished the restriction play of building the maximally high-performance golem with limited materials, Jin was satisfied.

"There's still one problem though..."

Jin muttered.

"Problem, Jin-kun?"

Elsa who had been quiet until now asked.

"Yes, Elsa... Well, I was wondering what to do about the basic knowledge of this golem."

"What do you mean?"

"This golem is fundamentally a maid golem. So I was thinking if it's possible I could have one of the lady assistants transfer the knowledge."

"In that case, should I give an order to the head maid?"

Turning to face the talker, there stood Earl Kuzuma who had come to check on the progress.

"Oh my. Well, well. It's rather beautiful. Beana, come see this for a bit."

"Yes?"

At the Earl's call, Beana who had been assisting Reinhardt came. She then saw the golem lying down there.

“Whawhawhawhwhhawha, what’s thiiiiisss!!”

She turned bright red and screamed.

It was no wonder, as the golem looked exactly like Beana. Her body’s figure was considerably accurately reproduced, that is, it was considerably sexy.

“Jin’s a perveeeeeeeeeert!”

Beana was so embarrassed she moved to hit Jin, but Reiko gently intercepted her.

“Let me goooooo!”

“I will not. If I were to, you would surely hit Father.”

“Nooooooooooooo!”

そしてそこに横たわるゴーレムを見て、

「ななななな、何よ、これええええ!!」

と、ビーナは真っ赤になって大声を上げた。
それもその筈、そのゴーレムはビーナそっくりだったからだ。
ボディラインもかなり正確に再現されているそれは、
かなりセクシーである。

「ジンのへんたいいいいいいい!!」



Earl Kuzuma couldn't let the bright red Beana just raise hell and explained,

"Sorry Beana, but to tell you the truth, I was the one who asked Jin to make a golem using you as the model."

"E-E-E-Earl did!?"

Beana was on the verge of panicking. Just then,

"Chop."

"Ow!"

Elsa's chop landed directly on top of Beana's head.



"Ooowwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww...."

Beana was crouching holding her head. Looks like she avoided panicking.

Jin was grateful for Elsa's resourcefulness in his heart.

"Calm down a little. For Jin-kun, something like recreating a woman's body is simple. He also made a golem exactly like Marcia-san in Port Rock."

"Oi."

"In addition, at Kunlun Island it was easy for him to measure our three sizes."

Gratitude cancelled.

"Ah, umm, that was, how'd you say, not particularly out of malice so please forgive me."

For Jin, now there was no other way than to apologize. The Earl also put in a good word for him,

"Hmm. Beana, you should stick your *chest* out in pride for having been the model for a golem this beautiful."

But that word the Earl used was the final nail in the coffin for Beana.

"But! Why! Only the! Golem's chest! Is biggeeeeeeeeeerrr!!"

Beana shouted from the bottom of her heart.

CHAPTER 14

THE ALWAYS FORGOTTEN

After somehow calming Beana down, Earl Kuzuma summoned the head maid.

“You called, master?”

A lady attendant in her mid-30s with a composed air about her appeared. She was dressed in a dark blue dress with a white bib apron, and wore a maid headdress.

She had brunette hair, and eyes of the same color. Her body was slightly chubby, she was a maid that gave off a calm atmosphere.

“Yes, as a matter of fact, as this golem’s currently under production, I want you to share your knowledge with it, Malloum.”

“Come again?”

Either way, or rather because it didn’t seem like she could understand, Jin stepped forward.

“Malloum-san, please keep on thinking about the work you usually do.”

Jin explained, and as expected she seemed to not really understand but replied anyway,

“O- Okay.”

However, Jin wasn’t concerned,

“[Transfer Info] level 3.”

“Eek!?”

Malloum was surprised when Magic Energy suddenly pierced her head. Jin explained that there would be no pain, after-effects, or any kind of real harm.

Even so, Malloum turned a bit pale.

“Master/Slave, rank one, blank; rank two, Earl Kuzuma; rank three, Beana; Rank four,

Malloum.”

He planned to have the third prince be rank one.

After establishing the chain of command, all of the work had been completed. Incidentally, Jin’s rank was an exception as her Father.

“Huh, a method like that! I truly won’t get tired of being with Jin!”

It seemed like Reinhardt ‘saw’ the method Jin used, as expected of him.

“Well, now then, since the client is already here, [Activate].”

“Yes, Father.”

“Eeek!”

Malloum let out a small shriek when she saw the golem suddenly come to life.

“How is it, the condition of the body?”

Jin enquired, and after moving her body around a little the golem answered that there are no problems.

“This is your master, greet him.”

“Nice to meet you, My Master. I am in your care.”

The golem said and bowed to Earl Kuzuma. The movement was graceful and natural.

“Hmm, there’s certainly a resemblance to Malloum.”

Since the knowledge was transcribed from Malloum, the movements also resembled Malloum’s.

Jin asked the Earl to name her, and the Earl thought for a bit and said,

“Hmm, your name will be ‘Lotte.’”

“Understood, thank you very much. I am Lotte.”

Lotte said and bowed very deeply.

“Beana-sama, nice to meet you. Malloum-sama, nice to meet you.”

Lotte also greeted Beana and Malloum. Judging from how her eyes were darting around, this was Malloum’s first time seeing a golem this similar to a human.

“Hm, now then, Malloum, train Lotte for a while, or rather, see that there aren’t any problems.”

“Y-ye-yes, master.”

And thus Malloum left the workshop and took Lotte with her.

“Now, Jin, you’ve made a splendid golem indeed. What should I do about the reward?”

“I told you I’d leave it to you.”

After being told so, the Earl grinned broadly and said,

“How about one million Torr and the status of Egelia Kingdom’s Royal Magi Craftsman?”

“Wha-!”

Throwing a sideways glance at the astonished Reinhardt and Elsa,

“I decline.”

Jin resolutely shot down the offer. The Earl just shrugged his shoulders as if he had seen that coming and sighed,

“Good grief, so it’s no good after all. ...Reinhardt, I envy you.”

He then said,

“Three million Torr. How does that sound?”

That was be about thirty million yen.

“That’s fine.”

This time Jin took the offer.

He entrusted the reward of 300 golden coins to Reiko. She pinched the bag containing 6 kilograms of golden coins with her fingertips, lifted it up with agility, and put it in the front pocket of her apron.

While the displayed power was a given, the apron didn't tear when such a heavy thing was put in, nor did it even get pulled taut. It was indeed made of rare materials.

When the talk of a reward was over, it was already evening.

After bathing, Jin and the others gathered in the dining room.

There the serving maids came carrying the meals, and among them was Lotte wearing a maid outfit.

"Oh, Lotte, those clothes suit you. You already seem like a diligent worker."

The Earl commended, as he looked at her serving the meals with the movements of an experienced maid.

"Thank you, My Master."

"Master, Lotte is most excellent. With just a little guidance, she works like a maid with ten years of experience."

"You flatter me."

With a humanlike response like that, if you didn't know beforehand, it could be possible to not notice she was a golem. Even more so since she was wearing clothes.

"Hmm, you could say this is already an Automaton."

Reinhardt muttered. Jin tried asking Reinhardt what's the difference between a golem and an Automata.

"It's just our own definition, but we call something that 'puts the emphasis on being like a human' is an Automata, while something that 'puts the emphasis on functionality' is a Golem."

"I see. For me, to put it plainly, Automata have hair on their heads and have skin. Golems' hair is the same material as their bodies, and they basically have no skin, or

something like that.”

That could be said to be one definition, Reinhardt nodded in response.



“Jin-kun.”

During the teatime after the Dinner Elsa addressed Jin.

“Hm? What is it?”

“Damper.”

When he heard that one short word, Jin thought, ‘ah’. He kept saying he’ll add some dampers on the carriages, but every time something more important kept him busy and it was postponed.

“That’s right, this time I’ll make them. Thanks, Elsa.”

“Mm.”

Elsa looked a little happy about Jin’s thanks.

“Then tomorrow, I’ll do it while the broken carriage is being replaced!”

“Hmm, in that case, I’ll arrange for the materials as promised.”

Since Reinhardt also agreed on it, Earl Kuzuma prepared the materials for the damper too.

Next morning, right after breakfast, the two went to begin the carriage remodeling and building.

“Since it’s a carriage, the axle runs between the left and right wheels, right?”

“Hm? Obviously.”

“However, what would happen if you attached the wheels to a fixed axle instead?”

“Hm? ...I see, you’re talking about having the wheels rotate independently. If it’s done

that way... What would it do?"

"It would decrease the resistance when making turns."

While having a conversation like that, the two put together their plans for the carriages.

As expected, Elsa wasn't accompanying them, and was instead spending the day leisurely in Earl Kuzuma's mansion.

The nanny Mine stuck to Elsa for the whole day. She seemed rather delighted.

"And so, to suppress the vibrations, wouldn't a structure like this be fine?"

"No, that's way too complicated. It's better to do it this way..."

"Wow, the leather of a Grand Mud Frog makes for a great result!"

"Uh-huh, it should be enough for a damper."



Without even having a proper lunch, the two dealt with the carriages until evening when the new model of carriage was completed in.

CHAPTER 15

BENEFIT SOCIETY (GUILD)

The next day, work installing dampers on the old carriage models began.

The method was pasting viscoelastic material on the crosspieces that supported the wheels.

The viscoelastic material in question was of course the leather of a Grand Mud Frog. Sticking it to the top and bottom of the crosspiece would suppress vibration.

To see how effective it exactly was they did a test ride.

“Oh wow, this is great! Jin, when we go back to my country I’ll definitely repay this!”

Looking at the rejoicing Reinhardt, Jin was also happy. Because now the carriage sickness should be much reduced.

Carrying on with their business, the two noticed that it was lunchtime only when Reiko said that it was already noon.

They went to the dining room where Earl Kuzuma was already waiting. Apparently his official business was over quickly.

“Oh, you two are here. I’ve got something to talk about.”

He said, and beckoned them to sit down.



During the teatime after the lunch, Earl Kuzuma began his talk.

“The topic is none other than that golem party.”

He said and faced Jin.

“It’s been decided that from Blue Land the Duke Blue, me, and finally Earl Guarana will go.”

When she heard that, Elsa’s expression became a little crooked. Apparently she hated him very much.

“In addition, the departure will be in three days. The trip to the capital Asunto will take three or four days, so we’ll likely arrive two days before the golem party.”

“Got it.”

After hearing Jin’s reply, the Earl continued.

“In addition, the day after tomorrow, on the afternoon Jin and I will go meet with the Duke. Of course, the golem Lotte will also come along.”

In other words, he wants to show the Duke the manufacturer and the golem that’s going to be taken to the golem party beforehand.

“Also, if possible, I’d like to have Jin register at the Magi Craftsmen’s Guild.”

In Port Rock Jin had worked as a freelance Magi Craftsman, but as expected, it seems this time proper identification is wanted.

“I’ll be the guarantor, and the referee will be...”

“I’ll do it.”

Reinhardt volunteered. With the Earl as the guarantor, and with Reinhardt coming from the Earl’s mansion to make a recommendation, he should be able to register without any problems.

There were no real demerits for Jin. And so he immediately agreed.

“That’s good. In that case, I’ll write a letter addressed to the Guild later.”

The very same day, by the afternoon all the old model carriages had dampers installed. The two spent the rest of their time adding the same system to Earl Kuzuma’s carriage.



“This is the letter addressed to the Guild.”

The next day, after breakfast, the Earl passed a scroll sealed with wax to Jin, who immediately prepared to leave for the Guild.

In truth, Jin had an interest in the Guild.

He only made a Marcia figurine in Port Rock, and didn't quite get to understand what sort of an organization it was, and was particularly interested whether this country's Guild was somehow different.

The referee Reinhardt was accompanying him. Elsa had said,

“I'll go too. It's boring to be left alone.”,

And also ended up coming along.

Four people: Jin, Reiko, Reinhardt, and Elsa were headed to the Guild.

Elsa's nanny Mine had also wanted to go, but Reinhardt and Earl Kuzuma both told her not to treat others like children, and she reluctantly obeyed and stopped asking.

The roofless light carriage the four had got on departed from Earl Kuzuma's mansion. The direction was the Blue Land branch of the Guild located near the walls.

“Ooh, this certainly shakes only a little!”

“Truly. Like this, it's comfortable to ride in.”

Reinhardt and Elsa both voiced their impressions. Unlike during the test ride on the mansion's premises, they now ascertained the effectiveness of the dampers on a real road surface with mud and stone paving.

“The next is durability, but the leather of a Grand Mud Frog shows promise.”

“Right. Well, it's not that expensive a material anyways, so as long you've got spares it should be practical enough.”

While chatting about things like that, they soon were close to the walls.

“There’s the Blue Land branch of the Magi Craftsmen’s Guild.”

Jin remembered what Reinhardt had told him yesterday.

The organization called the Guild was similar to a agricultural or a fishery cooperative, for example.

They offered accommodations for people in the occupation, sometimes protected their rights, and other times punished the people who would harm their occupations’ workers’ honor.

In addition, there were Guilds for other people than Magi Craftsmen. For example, architects and builders, merchants, handymen, et cetera had their own Guilds.

This one, the Magi Craftsmen’s Guild, was a two-storey building constructed out of stone that looked like Ooya stone.

“We’ve arrived.”

The taciturn coachman said, and stopped the carriage in front of the Guild. The four got off the carriage, and the coachman moved the carriage to a certain place, that is, the carriage parking lot.

“Huh, there’s even a parking lot.”

Jin was impressed. Using a carriage alone was proof of social status or assets. This meant that people like that often visited.

Reinhardt opened the door, and the group set foot in the Guild.

“Hmmm...”

Inside, every important point used white wall plating, giving off a bright atmosphere.

From Jin's experience he would compare this place to a bank or a post office.

Immediately after the entrance was a desk like an information desk, and a young woman was sitting behind it.

Farther behind it were a few service counters, each with their area of responsibility marked on them.

There were counters for 'Information', 'Requests', 'Consultation', 'Financing', 'Registration', 'Punishments', et cetera, and the one Jin and the others moved towards was 'Registration'.

"Welcome. Are you here to register?"

Behind the counter was a young man that appeared to be a bit younger than Jin.

"That's right. Here's a letter from Earl Kuzuma. First, take this to the branch manager."

Reinhardt urged, and Jin handed over the sealed scroll to the young man in charge. After confirming the seal on the scroll, the man said,

"At once."

With a short response he went to the back.

While waiting, Jin gazed at the other counters. Reinhardt gave an explanation.

'Information'. By the counter there was only one person, but inside at least five people had been crammed in. Jin thought that his guess that information is very valued in this world was right.

'Requests'. Apparently Magi Craftsmen who didn't have patrons could find work there.

'Consultation'. In case of difficult requests, various kinds of advice could be had from there. Of course, they charged an appropriate fee.

'Financing'. If lacking funds, you could borrow money in proportion to your achievements from there. In addition, members who achieved prominent merits could get a cash reward from the guild.

'Materials'. They helped with arrangements for production materials, and could refer

people to suppliers.

‘Registration’. The counter in front of which Jin was currently standing. It was the counter for new Guild registrations.

‘Punishments’. It handled procedures regarding people who considerably hurt the Guild’s honor, but Jin didn’t really want to hear about the details.

The young man from just now returned,

“Please come to the second floor, I’m told the branch manager wants to have a talk with you.”,

He said, and Jin’s group followed the young man’s instructions and headed to the second floor.

CHAPTER 16

THE BRANCH MANAGER

The room of the branch manager was in the second floor.

“Manager, I’ve brought the guest.”

The young man from the registration desk knocked on the door and said, and the door opened from the inside.

“Please come in.”

The one who said it and opened the door was a female model Automata.

She was about 150 centimeters tall, petite, and could be said to look like a lady close to nearing adulthood. Her light brown hair reached to her shoulders. Her eyes were light brown, the seemingly most usual hue eyes were in this world. Her face was also built to look average.

Being invited by this Automata, Jin’s group of four entered the room.

The young man who offered guidance excused himself, and went back to his business at the registration counter.

“Welcome, Reinhardt-sama, Elsa-sama. And also, Jin-dono.”

The branch manager seemed to be a sociable old man.

“I am the head of the Blue Land branch of Egelia Kingdom’s Magi Craftsmen’s guild, Philip Teafo.”

It was a rather long title. Since he had a family name, that also implied he had an honorary position, so his competency could be understood.

His body was about as small as Jin’s, with short pure white hair and beard. He had no moustache.

His eyes were so thin you couldn’t tell whether they were open or closed. But,

sometimes Jin could feel a sharp glint in the eye flash behind those eyelids.

“Hey, branch manager Philip, it’s been a while.”

“Good day.”

Reinhardt and Elsa seemed to be already acquainted with him.

“So you’re Jin-dono. I read Earl Kuzuma’s letter. So this means Reinhardt-sama, you will be his referee, right?”

“Uh-huh, that’s right.”

“I see. You seem to be a promising Magi Craftsman. Jin-dono, I’m looking forward to working with you.”

Just like that, without much of an examination Jin’s registration proceeded.

“Err, isn’t there an examination or something?”

Jin asked, thinking about something like the task in Port Rock.

“Haha, with Earl Kuzuma and Reinhardt-sama both recommending you, there can be no doubt about it. In addition, that Automata there must be Jin-dono’s work, right? It’s got a wonderful degree of perfection.”

Philip said while looking at the Automata waiting next to Jin.

“She’s Reiko. Rather than my work, she is my daughter.”

Jin said, and Philip responded,

“I see, you’ve got love towards your creations, don’t you. I like that. I think it’s wretched how many of the young Magi Craftsmen these days just run after profits. I wish to see more Magi Craftsmen like Jin-dono.”

His expression then suddenly changed to an embarrassed grin,

“Well, that’s just the complaints of an old man. Now, should I get to issuing the guild registration card?”

“Eh? It’s already over with?”

Jin questioned Philip, who replied,

“That’s exactly right. It’s already over...Donna.”

“Yes.”

When he called out for Donna, the Automata from earlier stepped forward. She had a metal plate in her left hand, and held out her right hand for Jin.

“Jin-dono, sorry for the bother, but please take her hand.”

“Huh?”

To the Jin confused by the suddenness,

“Jin-dono, this Donna can read people’s Magic Energy characteristics with her right hand. She can then record the information on the Mithril alloy plate in her left hand.”

After hearing the explanation, Jin speculated about the method in his mind. Reading the Magic Energy characteristics, this was simple.

Even the Warp Gates came with a function to detect Jin’s Magic Energy pattern.

But, recording the characteristics, this was something he heard for the first time. Not copy the pattern, record. That meant sampling the Magic Energy’s characteristics and quantifying it with numbers or otherwise converting it to a tangible form.

The speed of Jin’s thoughts had a limit.

Jin could only form guesses by the time Donna’s hand reached out to touch him.

Jin was very interested and put his right hand on top of hers.

In an instant.

Donna petrified, and just like that fell on her back.

“Do- Donna!?”

Philip was flustered. Jin also leaned over to inspect Donna's condition.

"...Looks like the Magic Energy pathways are damaged."

Jin gave his diagnosis, and Philip confirmed it,

"Hmm, that seems to be the case. But, why?"

The two pondered. Reinhardt also inspected the damage of the Magic Energy pathways, but couldn't think of a cause.

"I think that an Overflow happened, probably."

Reiko was the one who said so.

"An Overflow you say?"

Philip opened Donna's chest with Craft Magic and looked for something.

"Well! It's just like you said, Reiko was it? But in any case, an Overflow!? Doesn't that mean Jin-dono has more Magic Energy than Donna's Magic Energy pathways can handle!?"

"Yes, probably."

Contrasting with Philip's agitated raised voice, Reiko spoke indifferently.

"Because Father is the best in the world."

Nevermind, Reiko was in fact speaking with pride.

"I see, the best in the world, what Reiko, no, Miss Reiko said may not be completely out of mark. Since when I made Donna's Magi Device I used my own Magic Energy as a reference and intended it to withstand up to five times more."

"Five times the branch manager's! That's amazing! Jin, you're extraordinary!!"

"I can understand Jin's work performance now."

Reinhardt and Elsa were surprised and understanding after hearing that.

Just to be sure, here's a comparison. If you wanted to measure a length 100 or 1000 meters, a 10-centimeter ruler wouldn't be an appropriate measuring device at all.

Reinhardt also said something like that, but when Jin consciously held back his Magic Energy, the repaired Donna was able to make a registration card.

It was good that to make the registration card, only the Magic Energy pattern was needed and the quantity was irrelevant, Jin thought in his mind.



The branch manager Philip said to Jin who was now openly affiliated with the Magic Craftsmen's Guild,

"I look forward to working with you. Now, this is a bit hasty, but if anything has come to your mind I'd like you to tell me."

From outside, it's impossible to tell what's going on in here, Philip explained and for Jin's advice.

"Oh, that's right. I've been thinking this for a while, there's no 'patent rights' or anything like that in place, right?"

Jin then gave a quick explanation of the patent system. Well, Jin didn't know the details himself either.

"I see, so you mean if someone invents a new thing, they're given special rights to it for a period of time?"

Philip nodded his head admiringly. Reinhardt too,

"In that case, the desire to invent new things will increase!",

He was somewhat excited. Furthermore,

"It also protects from the circulation of imitations and inferior goods, huh. That killing

two birds with one stone!”

Philip said and clapped his hands together.

“We can’t systematically implement it right away, but after this country does it other countries’ Guilds will begin talks of promoting it, I think. Jin-dono, that was a great suggestion, you have my thanks.”

He said and bowed his head down. Jin was flustered,

“N-no, that was just a second-hand telling of what I heard from my teacher, that’s all.”

He said, hiding his embarrassment.

“Adriana, was it, your teacher? She must’ve been a truly magnificent person!”

Reinhardt praised. When she heard that, behind them Reiko had a happy look on her face, but only Jin noticed it.

CHAPTER 17

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

The day after Jin registered in the Guild, the meeting of the nobles, golems, and Magi Craftsmen going to the golem party took place in Duke Blue's mansion.

"Administrator of the Eastern District of Blue Land, Kuzuma."

"Administrator of the Western District of Blue Land, Guarana."

The two Earls first introduced themselves, then the golems and the Magi Craftsmen who built them.

"Earl Kuzuma's golem, 'Lotte'. Magi Craftsman, Jin."

When their names were said, Lotte and Jin took a step forwards and bowed.

"Earl Guarana's golem, 'Owl'. Magi Craftsman, Bootes."

His golem Owl's whole body was gold-colored. It had a glamorous feminine body shape with a larger build than Lotte.

(Urgh, how bad taste does he...)

She was of the same golden color, but the helper golem Soleil Jin had made for Reiko in Hourai Island was a more matte golden compared to Owl in its gilded splendor. Lotte was matte bronze.

(Showing off his new riches.)

Jin came into such a conclusion in his mind. The Magi Craftsman called Bootes who built it had golden decorative sewings here and there on his clothes, making his tastes apparent.

Speaking of, Earl Guarana looked like nothing but a fat middle-aged man with brown hair and brown eyes.

Next,

“Shouro Empire’s diplomat, Reinhardt Randol’s golem Schwarz Ritter. Magi Craftsman is the same Reinhardt Randol.”

Even though he was participating as a guest, Reinhardt’s Schwarz Ritter was introduced.

“Oh my, everyone, what wonderful craftsmanship.”

Blue Land’s feudal lord Duke Blue commented. He was King Egelia’s older cousin.

He looked to be around 50 years old. He had blond hair with some white mixed in, blue eyes, and a tough physique. He had grown a short moustache, and he looked rather majestic.

“Well then, I’ll show you my golem too. ‘Tauros’!”

In response to his words, an over two meters tall, sturdily armored-looking golem appeared. At a glance its fighting strength could be judged to be high. On its back it was also carrying a gigantic sword.

“This is my ‘Tauros’. The Magi Craftsman is Jade Nepheloi.”

The introduced Jade Nepheloi was a lanky man in the prime of his life. Nevertheless, his gray eyes were sharp, and he was looking at Jin and Lotte as if searching for something.

“Starting with the guest Reinhardt-dono’s Schwarz Ritter, displaying these in front of Egelia King won’t be disgraceful, one upon other they’re all excellent.”

Duke Blue was in high spirits.

“Since today is for introductions, from now on, shall we not use this occasion to have the participants mingle with each other?”

Just as he stated, afterwards the participants held a tea party to interact with each

other. Light meals and herbal tea was brought out.

“Hello, you’re Earl Kuzuma’s Magi Craftsman, right?”

Jade Nepheloi came over to Jin and said.

“Eh, I suppose. However, I only accepted a commission, i’m not his employee or anything.”

Jade was surprised by Jin’s reply,

“Does that mean you’re a freelancer? How curious. That a Magi Craftsman who made a golem like that would be a freelancer. I suppose a lot of skilled craftsmen are still hidden in the world.”

“You understand the greatness of that golem?”

Reinhardt, who had turned up next to them, asked Jade.

“Oh, hello there Reinhardt-dono. Your Schwarz Ritter is a magnificent creation. Particularly the movements are fluid and natural.”

“Not at all, your Tauros too is for sure magnificent. It’s certainly strong, isn’t that true?”

Reinhardt took a stab at piquing his interest.

“Haha, I wonder. But I can say that the one they call the strongest knight in Duke’s employ, Robert-dono, gave his assistance for the movement system.”

Generally, as a model for practically all golems’ movement systems, a veteran of that profession was asked to assist.

“Blue Land’s strongest knight as the model, huh. That sure seems strong.”

“No no, word has come to me of Schwarz Ritter’s strength. They say that in the previous mock battle, it singlehandedly crushed 20 opponents.”

“No, that was just because of the limitations of the mock battle’s rules...”

Jade and Reinhardt were deeply involved in their conversation, so Jin took advantage of the situation and quietly left the scene.

However, this time Earl Guarana's employed Magi Craftsman Bootes approached Jin.

"Hmph, you're Earl Kuzuma's Magi Craftsman, Jin, was it?"

Jin resigned himself to having to deal with him.

"Eh, I suppose. However, I only accepted a commission, i'm not his employee or anything."

He gave the same reply as he did some time ago.

"Pshaw, as I thought. Making a plain golem like that meant the Magi Craftsman being plain too."

Bootes said with arrogance.

"How about you work under Earl Guarana's employ from now on? Then I'll teach you lots of things."

As a result he proposed something like that. Jin entertained him with a halfhearted reply,

"I'll think about it after this golem party is done with."

Maybe he took the answer as a yes, since with these words,

"Haha, that's right, because it's very lucrative once you're Earl Guarana's employee, no one would turn that down.",

He departed.

While watching Bootes' retreating figure, Jin thought that there sure are many kinds of Magi Craftsmen.

"Oh, Jin, this is where you were."

Reinhardt who found Jin called out. Jade from earlier was with him.

But, before Jin could say anything,

"Oh, hello there Reinhardt-dono. Today you didn't come with Miss Elsa, I see.",

Another person said so. Of course, it was Earl Guarana.

“Earl Guarana, since today was the introduction of the golems, Elsa didn’t come.”

Reinhardt dealt with him smiling to the end.

“Hahaha, that’s right, isn’t it. But wasn’t Miss Elsa your cousin? She has a good talent in magic and good looks, I’d like to take her as my second wife.”

As Elsa was from a viscount’s house, you could say that even though it would be the second one, marrying into an Earl’s house would be marrying up. Yet it was a little better than the concubine offer from last time.

“No no, she’s still a child that’s ignorant of the ways of the world, and that’s why I took her along on my journey, so I think that kind of talk should be for when she’s a bit more learned.”

“What are you saying, that kind of innocence is also irresistibly charming. When you go back, please give her my regards.”

Even he seemed to think taking the offer further would be out of place during this event where drinks weren’t served.

“Did you hear that, Jin?”

Reinhardt asked Jin.

“Yeah. It’s no wonder Elsa dislikes him.”

Elsa who doesn’t really understand the world yet, and the greasy fat middle-aged Earl. It’s just like in the beautiful, no, like in ‘Beauty and the Beast’. But this beast won’t turn into a prince after earning the love of the beauty.

“As if Elsa would marry a guy like that.”

Reinhardt muttered, showing a rare look of disgust on his face.



“Aah, both Jin and Reinhardt-sama are at the Duke’s house.”

The one who was left behind, Beana, was grumbling in the workshop in front of Earl Kuzuma’s mansion’s courtyard by herself. Elsa, who was taking a walk in the garden heard it and said,

“It was inevitable. I’m rather relieved that I don’t have to see Earl Guarana.”

“Eh? Elsa-sama, you’re familiar with Earl Guarana?”

Beana was surprised and asked Elsa.

“Elsa.”

“Huh?”

“Elsa is fine. I also call you Beana.”

She replied.

“O-Okay. Then, El...sa, you’re famili...know Earl Guarana?”

One of the words turned incomprehensible, but Elsa seemed to understand and replied properly,

“Yep. Last time we met, he asked me to become his concubine.”

“Concubine you say...”

Beana thought back to her own circumstances.

Using her ill brother and sister to threaten her, he nearly raped her.

Then Earl Kuzuma who came on Jin’s request saved her from the dangerous situation...

“As for me, I was nearly forced by the Earl to...”

Beana said, and,

“Forced? That man uses violence against women?”

Since it didn't seem like she understood the implication,

"Umm... What I mean by 'forced' is that..."

Beana struggled to figure out how to explain it, when,

"Miss, so you were in a place like this."

The nanny Mine came along and said so. Then,

"The wind is cold today, please go inside."

She took Elsa away partly against her will.

While looking at Elsa from behind,

"...Looks like Elsa will have her own hardships.",

She murmured, left behind by herself.

CHAPTER 18

SIDE STORY 3: ONE DAY ON HOURAI ISLAND

This world is filled with Ether.

In addition, the composition of the ground, the mantle, and the core differs from Earth's.

The mantle is of rock containing Magi Stones and Magi Crystals, and the core is of metals like Mithril and Adamantite.

Similarly to geomagnetism's magnetic poles, magical poles generate lines of Magical Energy.

Since the magical north pole draws in Ether, when approaching the North Pole (magical north pole = magnetic north pole) the Magic Energy concentration in the air increases.

On the other hand, when going towards south the Ether gets thinner.

Consequently, devil beasts that use Magic Energy as sustenance inevitably gather near the North Pole.

By the way, the South Pole doesn't draw in Ether towards itself.

Because the South Pole doesn't have a magical pole. This is one of this world's great mysteries.

For this reason, the area around the north pole is devil beasts' territory, and the rest is human habitat.

However, because exceptions sometimes happen, one Sea Dragon left its den and swam south.

On the way the sea dragon preyed on a group of Death Serpents it saw. Half of the about 100-strong group ended up in its stomach.

The remaining Death Serpents went south in order to escape the Sea Dragon.

The Death Serpents swam around as if they owned the place in the sea that had no enemies because of the low Magic Energy concentration, and as soon as they found frail sea creatures that didn't possess Magic Energy they immediately ate them.

However, that group of fifty-odd Death Serpents met a powerful foe near a certain unpopulated island, and faced a crushing defeat.

Majority of the Magic Energy from that scattered around to the sea and the skies.

The naturally impossible concentration of Magic Energy dissolved into the ocean, and flowed north with the currents.

And then, the stray Sea Dragon noticed it.

The Sea Dragon was attracted by the flowing Magic Energy, and restarted its journey south. It didn't know that this would lead it to its own doom.



A warm current flows around Hourai Island. It starts at around the equatorial region, brushes against the peninsula of Elias Kingdom, and then flows north in the sea Hourai and Kunlun islands are in.

In this current, a great deal of fish do their seasonal migration.

Right now, the Navy golem of Hourai Island, Marine-67 was onboard the triple-hull catamaran 'Hydro-23' fishing along with the maid golem Aqua-67.

(Marine-67, the fish are biting a lot today, aren't they?)

(Yeah, how about freezei and drying these?)

(Sounds good. The master loves fish, after all.)

At that moment.

(Marine-67, did you feel that?)

(Uh-huh. Powerful Magic Energy. We should hurry and go back.)

Hydro-23 urgently turned back towards the southeast bay, with its Magi Water Jets on full throttle.

Avoiding the fish preserve in the southeast bay, they docked by the pier, and Marine-67 went to the research facility using a Warp Gate to deliver a report. Aqua-67 used the Warp Gate after gathering up all caught fish.

The magical intelligence Laozi that managed the island in Jin's absence received the report, and immediately began handling it.

(Air Force, urgent dispatch. Sky-1 in command. Sky units from 2 to 10, protect the research facility's airspace. Units from 11 to 50, patrol the sky above the reported point on alert state two, rest on standby.)

(Sky-1, roger that.)

(Navy, urgent dispatch. Marine-1, have Marines from 2 to 80 circling the ocean area north of Hourai Island. The rest on guard against a strike to the southeast bay.)

(Marine-1, roger that.)

(Army on alert status one. Land-1, have Land units from 2 to 10 defend the research facility and the mansion. Deploy the rest on the coastline from the north to the eastern side.)

(Land-1, roger that.)

(Soleil and Luna, along with Planetarium, Satella, as well as the number 100 golems, defend Kunlun Island.)

(Roger that.)

Laozi gave orders one after another. The military style wasn't quite right because Jin's

knowledge used as the basis was incomplete.



After two hours, Sky-45 detected the wake of a boat heading from north to south. Along with the nearby Sky-33 and 37 it descended, and identified that it was a devil beast like a huge dragon.

(Sky-45 reporting. Detected a huge dragon. It seems to be the main source of the Magic Energy. The dragon is carnivorous. It has been confirmed to prey on nearby fish.)

The information was sent through the ManaComs that were distributed to everyone the other day.

(Hourai Island, roger that. Send a picture too. Continue observing the target afterwards.)

(Sky-45, roger that.)

In addition, Sky-25, 48, 49, and 50 arrived. Now there wouldn't be the slightest chance to overlook anything.

Sky-45 was took a picture with the Magic Eye it was fitted with to use in cartographing, and sent it to Laozi.

Laozi analyzed the picture received from Sky-45 and considered how to deal with it.

The target is a devil beast.

If left as it is, the likelihood is high that it will eat all the fish around Hourai Island.

The devil beast is carnivorous.

Conclusion. Immediate extermination upon it entering the sea area under Hourai Island's control.

Supplement. For the master Jin, the raw materials should be secured.



The Sea Dragon kept moving south at a speed of about 40 kilometers per hour. In course of it, it found the place where the Magic Energy concentration was at its highest.

It was from land, but the dragon sensed an unbelievably large amount of Mana.

The Mana was leakage from the Magi Crystals stored on Hourai Island.

Only slightly changing its course, the Sea Dragon sped up and swam towards the source of the Mana.

After getting considerably closer to the source of the Magic Energy, the Sea Dragon noticed tiny sources of Magic Energy dotted around the sky above the sea.

It wasn't as much as the Magic Energy it was heading towards, but it also wanted to fill its stomach with these and surfaced. At that time, from overhead a thin light descended.

It easily pierced the right hind leg of the Sea Dragon that not even the fangs of Death Serpents could wound.



When the Sea Dragon entered the sea area 50 kilometers away from Hourai Island, it was clear that it was aiming towards the island.

Laozi ordered the attack.

First, Sky-25 who was flying just overhead fired a single [Laser]. It pierced the Sea Dragon's right hind leg.

(Sky-25 reporting. [Laser] is effective on the enemy.)

(Hourai Island, roger that. Have the Air Force on the scene attack using [Laser]. However, to the best of your ability, aim at the head and chest which appear to be vital spots.)

(Sky-25, 29, 41, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, roger that.)

Then they simultaneously opened fire with the twin [Lasers] each of the nine Albatrosses had as air-to-ground ordnance.

The focused optical weapons like thin needles directly hit the panicked Sea Dragon that was about to escape into the sea.

11 [Laser] beams hit the head, 4 beams hit the chest, and one hit the tail.

The Sea Dragon's life came to an end before it could understand what was happening. Not even blood flowed out.

(Sky-45 reporting. Target neutralized successfully. No damage was taken.)

(Hourai Island, roger that. Leave the dissection and the securing of the materials to the Navy that's on site. Air Force, excluding units from Sky-41 to Sky-50, return to the island. Sky-41 to Sky-50, scout out whether or not there are additional anomalies in a 500-kilometer radius.)

(Roger that.)

(Army, call off alert state one and return.)

(Roger that.)

The Sea Dragon's materials were put into the treasury. The horns, fangs, claws, scales, bone were for items using Magic Energy, and the flesh was an ingredient for tonics. The leather had a higher durability than that of a Sham Dragon's.

(The blood has plenty of Magic Energy, so it should be stored in the cold in case it can be used for something.)

Laozi decided to preserve the the blood, almost none of which had poured out.

Later on, the membrane of the wings that were comparatively small for its large body would be put to use on Reiko, and once again her performance would increase.

In addition, the preserved blood would play an important part in the future, but that's a story for the distant future.

Laozi evaluated his own response and was satisfied.

(I'm sure master will also be satisfied.)

Thus, Hourai Island's managing magical intelligence Laozi's first mission came to an end.

CHAPTER 19

TO THE CAPITAL

“Everything is going as planned.”

“Uh huh, I hear this time some interesting folks are participating too.”

“Indeed. I’ve heard that ‘Schwarz Ritter,’ ‘Tauros’ and ‘Ceres’ are taking part.”

“Hm, the golem of that Stearina who rejected our cooperation, huh. That too will be a brief entertainment.”

“If this operation is a success, we’ll be able to immediately grow stronger.”

“Not if. It’s when.”

“Right.”



As planned, Duke Blue’s, Earl Kuzuma’s, Earl Guarana’s and Reinhardt’s groups departed from Blue Land.

On the first day, they stayed overnight in the town of Verbena. Since they left on the afternoon, they couldn’t travel more than about 20 kilometers.

The night was peaceful as even Earl Guarana didn’t cause any problems.

The next day was rainy.

They headed towards the provincial city of Streal. Around this area was where the highway turned to earth, with spots with potholes here and there, and muddy because of the rain, so progress was slow.

“Heeey, can’t you go any faster!”

Today the vanguard was Earl Guarana’s group of carriages, from one of which he

lodged a solitary complaint.

“Even without hurrying so much, we’ll make it there plenty before dark, though.”

Reinhardt muttered with a strained laugh. This time, Jin was riding in Reinhardt’s carriage along with Reiko.

Incidentally, Beana was the one riding together with Elsa in her carriage.

Apparently they found a mutual understanding in detesting Earl Guarana and hit it off. Not just Reinhardt, but also Earl Kuzuma helped the two avoid attracting Earl Guarana’s attention.

In the afternoon, the rain had stopped, and just like Reinhardt said they arrived at Streal while the sun was still up. It was a lively city, although not as lively as Blue Land.

Duke Blue’s party stayed overnight in the feudal lord’s mansion that served the purpose of a guest house, Earl Kuzuma’s and Reinhardt’s groups in a Streal noble’s household, and Earl Guarana stayed in the highest class inn around.

“I’m pleased that you could come, Earl Kuzuma, Reinhardt-dono. And is that Miss Elsa too, welcome.”

The one who said so and came go greet them was the noble living in Streal, Viscount Grieri. He was a young man with light brown hair and who gave off a friendly impression.

With his solid physique, when he stood next to the tall and thin Reinhardt he seemed especially reliable.

“You must be the Magi Craftsman Jin. And this is?”

As he asked he turned towards Beana. Beana was flustered,

“Ah, I-I’m Magi Craftsman Beana, and I’m indebted to Earl Kuzuma.”

“Oh my, you’re a Magi Craftsman too. Isn’t that something. Well, why are we here standing around and talking, please come inside.”

He left the guiding of Jin and Beana to his butler, and to the Earl and Reinhardt he said,
“Please, make yourself at home.”

And played the part for the guide by himself.

“Well, it’s like a normal noble’s”

Jin said.

“I don’t really know what you mean by normal though.”

Beana said.

The two had been guided into a single large room.

“By the way, I wonder if this room is meant for just the two of us?”

By the looks of it, the room was about 10 tatami mats large, and there was only a single large bed.

“It seems so. Well, this kind of treatment must be because we’re little-known Magi Craftsmen.”

After that, Jin said,

“Reiko.”

Calling out for his Automata.

“Yes, Father.”

“Eek!”

As if she had been there all along, Reiko appeared right next to Jin, and that startled Beana.

“Oh, did I frighten you? Sorry, my bad. I hate when there’s trouble, so I had Reiko enter stealth mode.”

[Stealth]. It was the high-level magical function born as a result from the analysis Jin performed on the amulet the foe encountered some days ago used.

It could hide the user, and not just their presence. The principle behind it was using light magic to bend the light around the user's body so as to display what's behind them.

Of course, no light would reach the user's eyes during it so they'd be in the dark, but Jin's knowledge came in there, and he had the magic interact with just the visible wavelengths of light.

In other words, using the infrared frequencies Reiko could see things.

"...She would be undiscovered until she suddenly stabs someone in the back, no?"

Beana expressed her impression of danger. It's certainly ideal for secret maneuvers.

Jin wondered if he should build a ninja unit or something when he had the spare time.

"No peeking."

After eating, Beana said she'd change into her sleepwear so Jin left the room. By the way, Jin and Beana had a simple meal in a separate room.

Since the only thing left was to sleep, the two decided to change into their sleepwear.

Elsa then happened to pass by. Or rather, she came on purpose to Jin's room.

"Jin-kun, what are you doing?"

It was an obvious question.

"Oh, it's because Beana's changing right now."

He answered.

"Eh? You two are together in the same room?",

She asked back, with a tone that was a little surprised.

“Jin, you can come in. ...Oh, Elsa?”

The door opened, Beana came out, and she seemed surprised to find Elsa there.

“...Beana, come with me.”

“Err, hey, wait a-”

Looking a little angry, Elsa took Beana towards her group’s room, almost dragging her.

“Young lady. Are you perhaps intending to have her sleep in the same bed as you?”

“Yes. Because my bed’s large.”

Elsa’s bed was a double, no, a king-sized bed. It looked like it would easily fit three people as small as Elsa sleeping there.

The nanny Mine had a bitter face. She could have as many friends of the same sex as she wanted, but her sleeping together with a commoner made Mine uneasy.

Elsa made a compromise after she saw the look on Mine’s face.

“...Okay. Mine, you sleep with me. Then Beana will sleep in Mine’s bed, and that should be fine.”

“Y-Young lady!? You would give me the privilege to?”

After hearing that, Mine’s sullen face instantly turned to sparkling with joy.

“Mm.”

“Understood, Beana-san, wasn’t it. Please sleep in this here bed.”

“O-Okay.”

Beana couldn’t keep up with Elsa’d and Mine’s pace, so she went with the flow and where she would sleep was decided for her.

Meanwhile, here's Jin.

"Beana's late."

"Father, if Beana-san comes back I'll wake you up, so please go to sleep already."

"Hmm, you do that. I'm sleepy."

Jin said and lied down to rest on one side of the bed. Reiko calmly stood by his feet as if on guard, and kept an eye on the surroundings.

But Beana didn't come back, and there were no signs of other people either.

And like that, the night went on.



Although there was a mix-up like that, the feudal lord of Streal, Marquess Braun joined the group, and after passing through the town of Ruls they arrived at the capital Asunto in the morning as planned, with the golem party being held in two days.

CHAPTER 20

THE ROYAL CASTLE

Egelia Kingdom's capital Asunto was a Fort City. The walls rose to a height of 10 meters, they had been hardened and reinforced with magic, and in addition Magi Formulas to endow them with resistance to magic had been carved on the surface.

Inside the walls, the structure was unlike Blue Land's, having been systematically divided by parallel roads lengthwise and crosswise like a go board, bringing to mind capitals like ancient Kyoto or the capital of ancient China.

The central road stretched forth from the south, and at the end of it stood the royal capital.

"What a terrific city."

Jin said admiringly while gazing out of the window.

"Mh-hm. It's because this town was established after the Great Magic War. They followed a logical structure."

Said Reinhardt.

When asked what he meant by logical, he explained that first the area was divided into sections, then each section received a house number, and the addresses were recorded on ledgers.

With this, the citizens could be precisely managed, the population known, suspicious people rooted out and such with great efficiency. It could perhaps be called a simplified version of the modern family or address registry.

"Hmm, what a rather advanced country."

Jin gave his praises.

The carriages continued on the central road, then the line stopped in front of the royal castle. Palace guards were stationed on the gates.

Duke Blue, Marquess Braun, Earl Kuzuma, and Earl Guarana each gave proof of their identity, and the crew of each carriage was inspected.

Reinhardt was a visiting diplomat from Shouro Empire, while Jin and Beana as Magi Craftsmen showed their registration cards.

Jin wondered whether or not to have Reiko vanish using Stealth to avoid attention, but to avert future problems he decided to reveal her as Jin's Automata from the start.

If someone who was trained in magic examined her carefully, they could confirm she was an Automata, so without much trouble the group was allowed to go in the castle.

After passing through the gates, although they were inside the royal castle, the area was called the outer palace.

Where they headed to was not the royal palace in the front of the well-maintained and stone-paved plaza, but the state guest house on the left side.

They were moving slowly at half, no, a third of the speed at which they had moved until now.

And when the carriages arrived at the spot, the doors were opened from the outside.

Standing there were four royal guard knights. They were the most outstanding of the kingdom's soldiers. As they were to not let suspicious individuals into the royal castle, they monitored the behavior of Duke Blue's group.

And then, to welcome them came some of the royal castle's employed maids. The women were the daughters of low-ranked nobles and influential merchants, working while learning good manners through apprenticeship.

It was common to make certain of everyone's identity. This was the royal castle, and everyone was on the lookout for foreign spies or assassins mixed in with the people invited for the third prince's birthday party in two days.

"Please entrust us with all your weapons and such."

They asked, and starting with Reiko's 'Peach Blossom', Reinhardt's guards' weapons, and Elsa's guard Herman's sword were all taken to custody. In the end, even the butler Adberg's cane was seized.

“Please come this way.”

Ten maids and ten footmen went with Duke Blue’s group, and seven maids and seven footmen went along with Marquis Braun’s group.

Earls Kuzuma and Guarana each both got five maids and footmen each, and Reinhardt got the same number of both.

“Please make use of these lodgings.”

Reinhardt, Elsa, Jin and Beana were led to a series of buildings. Somehow it reminded Jin of a single-storied apartment building.

The assignment of the rooms was left to the leader of the group, Reinhardt.

“In that case, I suppose me, Elsa, Jin, and Beana will each take a room. Please divide the rest of the rooms suitably between the men and women.

His last words were aimed towards his butler. The butler then assigned the rooms for the servants.

By the way, the golems participating in the party all had their operation suspended and were moved to a certain storeroom. This was also a measure taken to prevent sabotage and such.

“Now then, let’s move in the luggage and relax a bit. Elsa, Jin, and Beana, let’s have some tea in my room afterwards.”

“Mm.”

“Got it.”

“Okay.”

Everyone then left towards their assigned rooms. However, one maid followed behind

Jin.

“Umm, you are?”

Jin wondered if she was going to enter the same room as him, and asked.

“Ah, I-, I am the maid who is in charge of taking care of respected guest and his wishes!”

She responded in a bit agitated manner. On a closer look, she was about 15 or 16 years old. She appeared to be of the same generation as Elsa and Beana.

Her hair was a chestnut color cut into a bob, she had a maid headdress on her head, and she was wearing a black dress and a white apron dress; at a glance you could tell she was a maid.

Her brown eyes often looked around, and her round face made her a charming young lady.

“That will be unnecessary. I will assist Father.”

Reiko stood in front of the girl.

Seeing the 130-centimeter tall Reiko confidently face off the about 155-centimeter girl was comical and also sweet.

“U, Um, am I not good enough? Would you like someone with more experience?”

Seemingly thinking her inadequacy being the reason for the refusal, the maid hurriedly asked.

“No. Whoever it is, it would be unnecessary.”

Reiko flatly refused, but,

“No, Reiko, we don’t know much about this country or the castle, so don’t you think we could use a little help?”

Jin said.

“...Yes, Father.”

Reiko reluctantly agreed.

Jin put the luggage away and looked out of the window. Nothing but trees and shrubs could be seen outside.

“A bad view, huh.”

Jin muttered, and,

“Ah, um, so-, sorry! The trees were planted so that there is no view from the outside.”

So that’s how it was, Jin thought after hearing it.

“Then, let’s go to Reinhardt’s room I guess.”

He said and left the room, and not just Reiko but the maid too followed.

Just there and then Elsa also came along, and in addition to Mine, yet another maid could be seen following.

She was slim and looked a little older than Elsa. She was a young lady with chestnut hair and violet eyes.

“Hey, Elsa. She is?”

He asked.

“...The maid in charge of me. Jin-kun’s too?”

“Yeah, so it seems.”

Then Beana came out of her room.

“Ah, Jin.”

“Hey Beana.”

A redhead maid was also following Beana.

The three then went to Reinhardt’s room.

In there they found, as expected, two maids.

One was in about her mid-20s, a glamorous woman with blond hair and blue eyes. The

other was in her late teens, with unusual black hair in a ponytail, and reddish brown eyes. She too was beautiful.

“Seems like this castle’s maids are all nothing but beauties.”

Jin said.

“Oh, dear guest, you flatter us.”

The glamorous maid behind and to the side of Reinhardt said. Jin’s maid blushed, and Elsa glared a little at him.



The tea Reinhardt’s maids brewed tasted like real black tea.

“Hm? This tea’s got a good flavor.”

Jin said, and,

“Thank you very much. It is called ‘tee’ and it is our country’s specialty.”

“Oh?”

Green tea, oolong tea and black tea are all made from the leaves of *Camellia sinensis* in the Theaceae family.

To make black tea, the fresh leaves must be dried, but then strangely the leaves must be left to ferment.

Green tea’s steaming stops this fermentation, and to make black tea it must be fermented.

So, this tea was without a doubt black tea.

“Jin’s also pleased with it? Me too, I thought I’d buy some for the return trip.”

“Me too.”

The tea seemed to suit Reinhardt and Elsa. It looked like Beana didn’t know much about teas’ flavors.

“Now then,”

Reinhardt opened his mouth to talk. It looked like he had entered diplomat mode.

“You call yourselves maids, but your goal is to monitor us, right?”

CHAPTER 21

SECRET

“What’s that supposed to mean?”

“I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

“Surely there’s been some kind of a misunderstanding.”

The maids responsible for Reinhardt, Elsa, and Beana calmly replied, but,

“Whawhawhawhawhawhawhawhawhawhawhat do yoyoyouoyou mean!?”

There was one easy to read girl.

“ .. ”

Everyone looked at the girl with pitying eyes. She was, of course, the maid responsible for Jin.



“Huh!?”

Finally she realized it, and belatedly pretended to be calm.

“Laila, you...”

“Wa,”

It seemed like her name was Laila. Laila’s eyes were downcast, and her shoulders shook. Immediately afterwards,

“Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhh!”

She burst into tears.

“Ca- calm down, you.”

“I’m sorryyyyyyyyyyy!”

Seeing Laila cry in front of people without hesitation made Jin and the others feel as if they were in the wrong.

Elsa couldn’t simply stand back and watch and patted Laila on the shoulder,

“No need to cry. No one said that you in particular were in on it.”

In spite of that while Laila still sniffled, she had nearly stopped crying.

“*Sniffle* ...Abe yuu sube...?”

“Ah, yes, that’s true.”

Reinhardt replied, seemingly a little drawn back by her face smeared with tears and snot.



“In the first place, last time I stayed here we didn’t have any maids like you around.”

Since Laila had calmed down, Reinhardt explained his reasoning.

“And now when it wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say nobles from all around the country have gathered here, anyone could guess that the security has become more

strict.”

Then taking a glimpse at the maid assigned to him who seemed to be in her late teens and had a sharp air around her, he said,

“You’ve got too few wasted movements for a maid. Those are the movements of a person trained in martial arts, most likely a martial art utilizing a short sword.”

He brought the explanation to an end.

After a brief silence, clapclapclap, the sound of applause resounded. The source was again a maid assigned to Reinhardt, this time the glamorous beauty in her 20s.

“Bravo, Reinhardt-sama. Indeed, we are a part of the Royal Secret Maids.”

No one knows whether or not Jin thought what kind of a chuunibyou name is that when he heard it.



“The Royal Secret Maids are as name implies, a covert force borrowing the appearance of maids. I am Rianna, this is Kate. She is Mary, and finally there’s Lisa. We are the squad two of the Royal Secret Maids.”

After having their true character revealed, the squad leader of the Royal Secret Maids’ squad two, the glamorous beauty in her 20s, Rianna, began to talk.

“Our mission is to maintain security in the royal palace. We remove even the slightest bit suspicious people to keep order in the royal palace.”

She said, then shook her head,

“But being seen through by Reinhardt-sama means we’ve failed.”

After that, she began to set off.

“Oi, you’re just going to leave?”

“Yes, since we’ve failed in our duties we will withdraw.”

Rianna dropped her shoulders and replied. But reinhardt said,

“You fool, surely it’s not like you’ve completely failed?”

“Excuse me?”

Rianna was perplexed and raised her voice, as if she couldn’t understand what Reinhardt was talking about.

“Surely it’s possible to accomplish your mission even if your identities have been exposed?”

“...”

“If you let go of the people who know the royal palace’s grounds well, it wouldn’t end with just reprimands from your superiors, right?”

“That’s right but...”

Then that’s settled, Reinhardt said and clapped his hands together,

“I don’t really have any problem with you monitoring us. It’s your job after all. But getting sneakily and secretly watched is just unpleasant.”

Jin admired Reinhardt’s generosity, but also got a strange sense of discomfort.

Jin’s attention was then drawn by by someone tugging his sleeve. It was Elsa. With a whisper,

“Rai-nii has always been soft with women who have large breasts.”,

She informed Jin.



“...”

Currently, Jin was back in his room. In front of him was Laila.

For some reason or another, Jin recalled a young girl from the orphanage. She was unexpectedly chosen as the class representative on her second year of junior high school, and her unfamiliar duties made her a nervous wreck every day.

“Hey, Laila.”

“Y-yes! How can I help!”

Jin was exasperated by how overly nervous she was. He thought that maybe she wasn't suited for the job. Then,

“Why did you join something like the Royal Secret Maids?”,

He asked. Laila hanged her head in shame,

“Aww... So you think i'm not cut out for it after all?”,

She asked and looked at him with upturned eyes. A normal man would've likely felt something after such a gesture, but Jin was a hardcore blockhead and a dullard who's tone-deaf to emotions.

“Yeah, I think so.”

He gave an honest reply, and Laila's shoulders drooped with disappointment,

“That's right, isn't it... Why would my older sister put me up for this job...”



Elsa didn't have any guilty feelings whatsoever, and didn't change her behavior at all in front of the Royal Secret Maid assigned for her, Kate.

Bathing, eating, changing clothes. Seeing Elsa behave as if Kate didn't exist, she sighed and thought in her heart that she was no match for Elsa.



Reinhardt was silently keeping his diary. Since he was still a diplomat, he was required to submit a report after returning to his country, and so he made documents for that purpose.

Aside him Rianna and Mary were standing around looking bored.

They waited until Reinhardt was done keeping his diary.

“Excuse me, Reinhardt-sama...”

“Hm? What is it?”

“Why did you stick up for us?”

Reinhardt smiled and replied to Rianna’s question,

“Hmm, why indeed. I don’t like being monitored. But I also don’t like having women like you get scolded, you see.”

“What’s that supposed to mean? Are you perhaps trying to seduce me?”

Rianna laughed, covering her mouth with her hand and wiggling her hips. It was fairly coquettish, but Reinhardt wasn’t perturbed.

“Ha ha, even though it may not look like it, but I spent six years apprenticing for a diplomat. I’m plenty experienced with seduction techniques.”

“Oh, how unpleasant.”

Rianna said and once more straightened herself.

“Monitoring, when done behind the scenes and in secret is disagreeable, but if it’s done openly it’s surprisingly easy to tolerate.”

“Ah, it turned out to have a rather subtle answer.”

“Because if I were to send you away, they’d send a more capable person and this time we might get monitored without noticing them, no? And I’m saying I don’t like that.”

Reinhardt said and gave an eloquent smile.

CHAPTER 22

LOVE TALK

On the evening, Jin had the Royal Secret Maid Laila guide him to the bathhouse.

“Oh, Jin?”

“Ah, Earl Kuzuma.”

There, Earl Kuzuma had also come to take a bath just then.

Jin was about to leave and come back later, when,

“Just the right time, I wanted to have a little talk with you. Won’t you get in with me?”

The Earl said to Jin. Having been explicitly invited, Jin couldn’t refuse. They would go in together.

“Oh, you don’t have to come with us.”

The Earl ordered the maids to wait outside the bathhouse.

Could the talk be about something important, Jin thought and put himself on guard a bit. Although, in truth, Reiko was invisible with [Stealth] and had secretly followed them in.

“Ahh, taking a hot bath is so comfortable.”

Earl Kuzuma stretched out and relaxed in the bathtub. The tub was fairly large, enough that the 180-centimeter tall Earl wasn’t a bit cramped in it.

The Earl was a thin person but still had some muscle, and Jin felt a bit bitter about his meager build. Because no matter how much he trained, he couldn’t gain muscle.

“What was it you wanted to talk about, Earl?”

Jin couldn’t relax so he asked about the topic.

“Oh, that’s right. The talk.”

The Earl looked up and down and again up and down over and over as if he was thinking about what to say.

He repeated that several times, until finally it seemed he had come to a decision.

“Jin, what’s the relationship between you and Beana like?”

“Huh?”

Jin reflexively let out a silly voice. All the more because he had been wondering about what kind of a complicated thing the Earl wanted consultation with.

“It seems like you’ve given Beana a lot of support, and the other day you invited her to your place. It also looks like Beana is very open with you.”

Once he opened his mouth, the Earl kept on talking.

“She’s... Brave, that’s right, bravehearted. Despite not being by any means blessed with a good environment she studied to be a Magi Craftsman, brought up her brother and sister, and no matter how many hardships she went through she remained pure.”

“Uh, huh.”

That was the only thing Jin say under the Earl’s zeal.

“And I think it’s praiseworthy how she uses her skill for the sake of the masses. She’s also beautiful and...”

After firing all those words out in a single breath, the Earl finally came back to his senses, blushed, and held his tongue.

“Earl...”

No matter how dense Jin was, after hearing that much even he could make the connection.

“Ha ha ha, cheer up. Ever since I first saw her, she’s held a place in my heart.”



While giving a sideways glance at Earl Kuzuma who had left the bath and was pouring water on his head, Jin thought about how to answer.

For a short while afterwards, he had been made to listen to more of Earl's love-talk.

It seemed like he was serious. He wasn't thinking about social status or anything like that at all. Surely he could make Beana happy.

"Sigh."

While drying his dripping hair with a towel, the Earl took a glance at Jin as if urging him to answer. Jin sensed that and opened his mouth to answer.

"Beana is something like a troublesome young sister."

It was the same answer he had given to Reinhardt. When he heard it, Earl Kuzuma's expression immediately turned cheerful.

"Is, that, so! She's, like a, sister, to you!"

And then, keeping that expression,

"In that case, could your sweetheart be Miss Elsa?",

He asked. Since he now knew Jin wouldn't be on the way of his love, he had regained his cheerful mood.

"N- No, Elsa's a... slightly unreliable younger sister."

Hearing that, Earl Kuzuma said,

"Hmm, so both of them are like sisters to you. Could it be, you like more mature women like that Rianna from the Royal Secret Maids?"

The moment the Earl said that, from somewhere a sound like a crash could be heard.

"Hm? Is someone...No, there's no way. So, how is it, Jin?"

When asked, Jin muttered that's a good question and shook his head.

"The type of woman I like is the type the woman I like is."

It was almost like Zen dialogue.

“What’s that supposed to mean?”

As one would expect, the Earl didn’t quite understand and raised his eyebrows.

“Well, I’ve got no one like that right now.”

Jin said, to which the Earl said,

“While you think that, for example suddenly the destined one for you may appear. Just like for me!”

And left the bathhouse.



Jin was left alone lying in the bathtub. There,

“...Father.”

“Oh, Reiko.”

Reiko cancelled [Stealth] and appeared. And then, out of the blue,

“Father, do you prefer mature women with large breasts?”

Jin, who was leaning on on the bathtub slipped and slid down.

“Wha- What are you talking about?”

Jin, now half-sunken in the hot water, was flustered and got out of the bathtub.

“I want to become bigger.”

Reiko’s sudden request baffled Jin.

“He- Hey, Reiko, what’s gotten into you?”

“If Father prefers larger women, then I...”

Jin bonked Reiko lightly on the head,

“You dummy. There’s no way I’d come to like just anyone only because they had large breasts, don’t you know?”

Jin soothed Reiko’s worries, and she said,

“But, Elsa-san said that Reinhardt-san prefers women with large breasts.”

Oh, that time, Jin thought. She did say that ‘Rai-nii has always been soft with women who have large breasts’, if he remembered correctly.

From that you could read between the lines that ‘he prefers women with large breasts’, but why did it become about me and have you gone blind, Jin thought.

“As I keep saying, Elsa, and Beana are my friends. And you’re my precious daughter. I love your face and your appearance very much.”

“Are you sure!?”

Looking at Reiko who was about to, no, who was actually jumping for joy, Jin said,

“And that’s why you shouldn’t worry so much about other girls.”

“...Understood.”

The remaining problem was whether she really understood it or not, but it was bad to monopolize the bathhouse so much, so Jin got out of the water.

In the passageway outside the dressing room, Laila was...sitting down on the floor while dozing off.

“...”

Jin was troubled with what to do with her for a while, but he decided to wake her up after all, and he tried prodding her head.

“Huh!? An enemy raid!?”

Laila sprung up and flipped her skirt, and unsheathed the knife she was carrying on her thigh.

She also completely cut apart her skirt.

“Eeeeeeeeeeeeeek!”

Laila screamed as her short bloomers and thighs became exposed.

Precisely then Elsa and Beana arrived to take a bath.

“Jin! What are you doing!”

“...Jin-kun, is a beast?”

Utterly misunderstood,

“I’m innoceeeeeent!”

The shout from the bottom of Jin’s heart echoed through the aisle.

CHAPTER 23

GAME

After various troubles the day passed, it became night, then morning once more.

Today was the birthday of the third prince of Egelia, Ernest Relm Andrew.

Throughout the morning, the nobles outside the castle not participating in the golem party had gathered by the castle entrance, and together with the bodyguards and soldiers it was noisy.

Jin and the others, that is, Jin, Reiko, Elsa, and Beana were gazing at the situation from afar.

Earl Kuzuma and Reinhardt weren't here because of the formalities associated with attending the birthday party.

"Aah, it's so boring."

Beana complained.

"...Agreed."

Elsa was of the same opinion. Jin was also bored, so,

"Should we play some kind of a game?"

"A game?"

Jin thought about it for a bit. What would be a game that was easy to prepare, fun for everyone, and requiring no practice or skills.

Suddenly, sugoroku came to his mind.

"Alright, let's see, would this table do?"

"What are you planning?"

The room they were in was Elsa's. Simply because it was the largest one. Similarly, it had the most varied furniture.

In there, Jin decided on a 60-centimeter wide square teee table (a table for tea), then, "[Surface Treatment].",

He made the surface a smooth white. He then drew squares on a grid on it with ink.

"Whaat? Start? Goal?"

Beana came over and peeked at it. After drawing the basic squares Jin began to explain.

"This is a game I know called sugoroku. The foundation of it is throwing these dice."

He rolled the dice he had quickly made with Craft Magic to show them.

"It's a game where you roll the dice and move forward the resulting number of squares, and the first one to reach the goal is the winner."

"...Looks simple."

Elsa gave her honest impressions. Jin then said,

"Yes, seems simple right? But this is where it gets interesting. Some of these squares have special rules to them."

"Special rules?"

Jin began to explain it,

"Skip a turn, for example, or go back three squares, things like that."

"I see. So it's a matter of luck."

"Well, I suppose. Alright, let's first have a go at it like this."

And so, the sugoroku board with one out of ten special squares was completed. Jin also quickly made pieces and colored them, and now with each having their own piece the game could start.

“Forward three squares, okay.”

“I got it! Six forward- oh no! ‘Skip a turn’!?”

“Four.”

The first game went on with everyone having fun, and very soon someone would reach the goal.

“Come on four, four... Aww, a two.”

“I need it to be a five... Oh.”

They couldn’t relax because of the possibility of landing on the ‘Go back 20 squares’ tile in front of the goal.

“Woohoo!”

Getting the first placed fired up Jin unsuitably much for his age.

“Aww, I’ve been defeated, huh. Alright, come on two, come on...I did it! I got second!”

“...My loss. Once more.”

The sugoroku meant for killing time turned out to be popular.

The Royal Secret Maids watching from the back, Laila, Lisa, and Kate also looked like they wanted to give it a try, so the girls were also asked to participate.

At first they gave a firm refusal since they were on duty, but Jin persuaded them by reasoning that it’s a maid’s duty to not let the guests be bored, and the girls seemed to agree and eventually participated in the game.

“Eek! Back ten squares!?”

“Aww, skip a tuuuurn!”

“Come on, siiix!”

It was rather noisy. But thanks to it, the maids seemed to become less reserved.

They passed time with suguroku until the evening when Reinhardt and Earl Kuzuma returned.

After playing Jin restored the table back to as normal as he could. Laila and the others looked a little regretful as Jin did it.



“Now then, tomorrow will be the golem party at last, however.”

Earl Kuzuma began to go through some important points.

“Of course the dress code is formal. It looks like Jin has his Magi Craftsman’s coat. One’s been prepared for Beana too, so please wear that.”

“Eh, fo-, for me?”

Earl Kuzuma smiled pleasantly and took out a fine dark red coat from the luggage.

“You’ll be fine to attend with this.”

He said, and handed it over to Beana.

“Th- thank you very much!”

Beana held the coat she received close to her chest. The Earl’s expression turned a little happy when he saw it.

“There’s an order for the entry, you know. First are the cabinet ministers, then the nobles working in the castle, invitees, nobles living in the outskirts, and the nobles coming from far away.”

Reinhardt and Elsa seemed to be categorized under invitees.

“Finally, the Magi Craftsmen, Jin and Beana. Since only the nobles have to go greet the king and the prince, it’s fine to just watch.”

That's good to know, Jin thought. Honestly, he wasn't very good with flashy parties.

"Since you'll be far away from Earl Guarana, likely Beana won't be found by him."

After he said that, Beana was relieved. However, Elsa was pouting a little.

"And so, since weapons and such are not allowed on the grounds, there's also restrictions on Magi Tools. Miss Reiko won't probably be able to enter."

"That is unacceptable."

Reiko, who had been quiet until now, began to talk.

"To protect Father is my mission and purpose in life."

But,

"Hey Reiko, I appreciate your concern, but this time you can't. We shouldn't cause trouble for Earl Kuzuma and Reinhardt."

When chided by Jin, Reiko reluctantly nodded and said,

"...Yes, Father."

"Uh, then, the arrangement goes such that each noble will one by one bring golems in front of the king and prince, give their name and rank, and briefly present the golems' operation, but..."

The Earl then looked at Jin,

"What do you think I should have Lotte do?",

He asked. He was probably thinking that as a maid golem, Lotte couldn't give any particularly showy performances.

But Jin said,

"Is there anything in particular you want her to do?"

He returned the question to the Earl.

The Earl didn't by any means expect to be asked, and he had to completely rethink it,

"Uh, hmm, let's see, could she do a dance, or a sword dance?",

The Earl asked.

"She could.",

Jin replied.

"Let's see..."

Jin looked at the Royal Secret Maids one by one. Jin's line of sight met Laila... and skipped over her, then stopped on Rianna.

"Even so, we're going to need Rianna-san's assistance, I suppose."

"Eh? Are you talking about me? What may I do for you?"

Jin said to Rianna who was entirely out of the loop,

"Well, just think about your work, please.",

He then commanded Reiko to fetch a small Magi Crystal,

"[Transfer Info] Level 2."

"Eek!"

"It should be fine now."

"Wha, wha-, what was that just now!?"

Even the leader of the squad two of the Royal Secret Maids was disconcerted.

Jin only copied Rianna's movement patterns, he explained, but hearing that only served to make her more '?' instead.

Since he couldn't yet get in touch with the golem safeguarded in the warehouse, he decided to leave it for the maintenance period before the unveiling, and with that

everyone returned to their rooms for the day.

CHAPTER 24

THE UNVEILING

Next day, immediately after breakfast Jin got to improving Lotte. Of course, Earl Kuzuma was present.

The final adjustments and checking of the operations of the other participating golems was beginning.

Jin had the Magi Crystal on which he had yesterday copied the movement pattern of the head of the squad two of the Royal Secret Maids, Rianna, he transcribed the information from the crystal to Lotte's Control Core.

If you need a mental image, it was close to a updating a computer's OS, or maybe patching it.

"Is it done now?"

Earl who had come along with Jin asked.

"Yep. Earl, could you start it up, please?"

Accordingly, Earl Kuzuma said the Keyword [Activate]. Then to the Lotte who had risen up,

"Lotte, how's the state of your body?"

Jin asked, and,

"Yes, Father. There are no problems."

After hearing that, Jin moved to a wider location along with Lotte. He then turned to the Royal Secret Maid following him,

"Alright, now... Rianna-san, could you attack Lotte, just lightly will be fine, please?"

"Eh?"

Jin explained to the wondering Rianna that it's because Lotte should be able to use the same martial art as her.

"Okay, then, here I go."

Rianna took a short sword from under her skirt. Unlike Laila, she didn't cut up her skirt.

Then she suddenly stabbed at Lotte.

Lotte repelled it with her left hand and took a step forward, aiming her right fist at Rianna's solar plexus. But Rianna avoided it with a backwards somersault.

"Okay, that's enough. Lotte too, stop."

Since it wasn't for combat training or anything, just to check the movements, Jin had the two people (one person and one golem) stop.

"Hmm, that's great! Not just Lotte, but Rianna, you were splendid too."

Earl Kuzuma who saw the brief attacks and defenses gave his praises.

"You flatter me greatly."

Rianna said and bowed, then retired to the back.

"As expected of the leader."

"If it was me, that fist would've probably hit."

"Aww, how didn't she cut her skirt..."

Et cetera, the other watching Royal Secret Maids admired Rianna's moves. Although one of them had a bit off-point impression.

"Jin, amazing, you are! What a curious method! I want to try to do it like that too!"

Reinhardt said somewhat excitedly. Jin thought that with some training Reinhardt could probably do it.

“However,”

His tone of voice dropped, and Reinhardt continued with a whisper.

“Showing that in public isn’t good. Listen, what do you think would happen if it was known read the mind of a general or a cabinet minister just like that?”

When he put it like that, Jin understood.

In practice, by resisting the reading could be prevented, but it’s impossible for people who don’t know that.

“If you don’t want it used on influential people, or used to pin false crimes on people you should be careful.”

Jin thanked Reinhardt for his advice.



And in the afternoon, the golem party finally started.

“Take care.”

The Royal Secret Maids saw Jin and the others off the guest house. Knights came to pick them up and they were towards the inner royal palace.

Just like Earl Kuzuma explained, the cabinet ministers entered first. Then the nobles working in the castle, and afterwards Reinhardt and Elsa entered along with the invitees.

Next the outskirts’ nobles, then the nobles from far away entered, and finally among Magi Craftsmen, Jin and Beana.

Jin was looking at the people entering with them, but excluding the Magi Craftsman Bootes who built Earl Guarana’s golem Owl, they were all new faces.

At that moment,

“Oh, teacher!”

Beana said.

“Teacher?”

“Umm, that’s right. Jin, look, the person entering now. That person is Gladia Hampton-sensei, whom I studied under for two years.”

“Hmm.”

The person who had entered just now was reasonably tall and middle-aged, with a conspicuously wide body.

“Ah, I wanted to give my greetings.”

Beana muttered.

“Come on, it’s our turn soon.”

Jin informed her.

Then the person in charge invited Jin and Beana to enter. Looking around, no one could be seen. Jin and Beana were literally the last ones.

“...Ooh.”

All the participants were gathered in a hall larger than a gymnasium. Actually, not all of them.

“His Majesty the King of Egelia, Harold Ruan Autocracy=Egelia-sama! His Royal Highness the third Prince Ernest Relm Andrew-sama!”

Finally His Majesty the King and His Royal Highness the third Prince entered.

Far away figures that looked like the King and the Prince sat down upright.

On both sides of them was a row of nobles each wearing extravagant garments, some decorated with gold and silver threads, others with sparkling gems. On each one’s side stood a figure covered with a cloth, likely golems.

“And now, for His Majesty the King of Egelia, Harold Ruan Autocracy=Egelia-sama’s third Prince’s, his Royal Highness Ernest Relm Andrew-sama’s, birthday celebrations! I present to you, the golem party!”

A woman with a clear voice like an event director’s announced the opening of the party, and the nobles sitting in the row started applauding in unison. Jin and Beana also joined with the applause.

When the sound of the applause ceased, the king brought up his left hand. This time everyone present suddenly fell quiet.

“Everyone, We welcome you. We thank you for gathering here on this day for the sake of Our son.”

The king expressed his thanks without bowing his head.

It seemed that superiors’ speeches were long no matter where. Jin was for some reason reminded of his school principal’s talks held during the school’s opening and closing ceremonies.

“...We have nothing further to say.”

It should be over now, Jin thought. But contrary to his expectations, subsequently the main character of today, the third Prince began to talk.

“Everyone, thanks for today. You’ve gathered many golems just because I like golems, and I’m very grateful.”

The third prince was smaller than Jin. He looked like he was about junior high school age. Jin listened to the talk while thinking that if he remembers right, the prince was 13 years old.

“...I am of the impression that my father, the King has a reward for whoever’s brought the most interesting golem. Please look forward to it. Now, everyone, please present your golems!”

Finally the long greeting was over, and the unveiling of the golems was about to begin.

“In that case, it seems the attending ladies and gentlemen should start introducing and unveiling their golems.”

Again the event director's voice echoed,

"Prime Minister, Galueri-sama."

A white-haired aged man stepped forward, put his hand on the left side of his chest and made a deep bow. Then,

"Golem, 'Ceres'. The Magi Craftsman is Celuroa Kingdom's Magi Craftsman, Stearina-dono."

Then, Prime Minister Galueri removed the cloth covering the golem next to him.

"Ooh!"

"Beautiful!"

"Wonderful!"

The hall was stirred.

The whole body of the golem that came into sight was made out of transparent crystal.

It had the figure and body shape of a woman in her late teens or early 20s. It wasn't wearing anything. No, if it was to wear something it would surely only harm its beauty.

In the central part was a purple Magi Device. The pupils were like burning deep crimson. It was extremely beautiful.

"Nice to meet you, Ernest-sama. My name is Ceres."

It had a clear and beautiful voice. Its gestures were like they flowed.

And the demonstration was a dance performance.

With soft movements nearly like a human's, everyone watching was mesmerized, and the eyes of the nobles who were sitting in a row were glued on Ceres. Actually, the King's and the Prince's were the same.

"Hmm, since there's no joints to be seen, that must mean it uses [Forming] to move."

Though, just one person, Jin, was looking with interest at the structure rather than the beauty.

“The Magic Energy efficiency must be bad. But, it’s a beautiful golem. You could already call it a work of art.”

Nevertheless, that form couldn’t be spared the praise. Jin, who was poor at designing, felt jealous of that sense of art.

And then looking at the Magi Craftsman who built Ceres, he saw a woman in her early 30s, or maybe in her late 20s.

Her bronze-colored hair reached to her back; she was an intellectual-seeming woman with reddish brown eyes. Those eyes were looking at her own work, Ceres.

When the demonstration ended, the whole audience burst into applause.

“This, this will surely overshadow the golems afterwards.”

“Oh, truly.”

“Surely the King’s prize will go to the Prime Minister.”

The nobles whispered some such to each other with a low voice.

CHAPTER 25

THE GOLEMS

“Then, next is the Minister of Finances, Blaoroot-sama.”

A thin-haired elderly man stepped forward and bowed.

“Golem, ‘Zingel’. The Magi Craftsman is Yarui-Dale-dono.”

From under the cloth appeared a rather normal golem, bronze-colored and with the figure of a girl in her 15s.

“That’s rather ordinary.”

“Well, surely that’s the norm.”

The nobles whispered the conclusions they came to after evaluation. However, when ‘Zingel’ began its demonstration surprise painted those faces.

–A flower blooming on a plain, the meadow swaying in the wind

–A glittering cloud, the blue heavens reaching everywhere

–A singing bird, the trees are really noisy

–A gentle wind, this beautiful land.

It sang with a clear, pure voice.

“Ooh...”

“How beautiful...”

Although the singing golem wasn’t as flashy as the previous ‘Ceres’ had been, after

performing three pieces it left everyone with a strong impression.

And after that the party continued with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Domestic Affairs, and the Minister of Defense. Their golems were passable.

“Minister of Magic, Kelhidore-sama.”

A man with a small build similar to Jin stepped forward.

“Golem, ‘Helios’. It is my own work.”

And then, a pure white golem appeared from under the cloth.

“Oooh!”

“That appearance!”

On the golem’s back there were equally pure white wings.

Jin recalled the golem he saw in Port Rock, but this Helios was more refined than it.

“Angel...”

Someone whispered that word. Jin was extremely curious about it, but he had no one to ask.

Helios fluttered her wings slowly, she didn’t fly but gave four elegant bows to the surroundings.

“What a beauty.”

That must’ve been the honest thoughts of the people watching.

After that, one golem after another was presented.

So far, the ratio of male figures to female figures was about 3:7.

“The feudal lord of Blue Land, Duke Blue-sama.”

Finally Duke Blue’s name was called.

“Golem, ‘Tauros’. Magi Craftsman, Jade Nepheloi.”

Duke Blue’s golem was unmistakably a male-type, and furthermore had a large build.

“Ooooooooooh!”

“How mighty!”

“Looks reliable.”

Its outward appearance suited its armor with a black lustre, being over two meters tall. Today instead of a sword it was holding a shield.

Not only that, it was one of those so-called huge tower shields.

Its overwhelming intimidating air pressured the people watching without any particular demonstration.

“The assistant feudal lord of Blue Land, administrator of the eastern section, Earl Kuzuma-sama.”

Earl Kuzuma stepped forward, and gave a neat bow right out of a textbook.

“Golem, ‘Lotte’. Magi Craftsman, Jin.”

None of the people watching were surprised when Lotte was revealed from under the cloth. However,

“My name is Lotte. I pledge fealty to Your Royal Highness.”

She stated with a clear voice, and when with smooth movements she followed a vassal’s etiquette, those with discerning eyes watched it their eyes open wide. Rather than smooth, the movements could be called those of a human’s.

But, the majority of people present didn’t realize it,

“Hmm, how ordinary.”

“She’s wearing a maid’s clothes, but that’s where the novelty ends.”

Remarks like that which missed the point were said.

“...Jin, was it. Just what kind of a man is he?”

“Well, it’s just hearsay, but apparently he’s the Magi Craftsman who built the golem that won the recent golem boat competition in Port Rock.”

“Is he a freelancer?”

“No, I’m sorry to say that it seems Shouro Empire’s Reinhardt-dono has secured him.”

“...That’s a shame.”

However, a conversation like that was had among one subgroup of the nobles.

“The assistant feudal lord of Blue Land, administrator of the western section, Earl Guarana-sama.”

It was Earl Guarana’s turn.

“Golem, ‘Owl’. Magi Craftsman, Bootes.”

The gilded golem was presented.

“Huh.”

“Gaudy, isn’t it?”

“It’s just a thing of an upstart Earl.”

The assessment seemed to be on the harsh side.

“Feudal lord of Streal, Viscount Grieri-sama.”

It was the noble who accommodated them the other day.

“Golem, ‘Iron’. Magi Craftsman, Gladia Hampton.”

The golem was built by Beana’s teacher.

Isn’t this just a regular type of golem, people thought as they saw what looked like a standard male-type golem.

The presentation continued, and finally it was the invitees’ turn.

“Shouro Empire diplomat, Reinhardt-sama.”

Reinhardt stepped forward.

“Golem, ‘Schwarz Ritter’. It is my own work.”

He removed the cloth and unveiled Schwarz Ritter.

“Ooh, so that’s the rumored Schwarz Ritter.”

“I see, a symmetrical balanced form, and natural movements.”

“If you had a hundred of those golems surely you’d have nothing to fear.”

Typical of combat golems, Schwarz Ritter wielded a wooden fake sword and displayed several forms.

The fake sword was of course because of being in front of royalty.

“Celuroa Kingdom’s special envoy, Dominique-sama.”

A young woman stepped forward. She bowed elegantly so that her blond hair reached down at her waist level.

“Golem, ‘Loiseau’. It is my own work.’

Apparently she was also a Magi Craftsman. That ‘Loiseau’ golem was some kind of a bird-type golem. It had red, blue, and yellow feathers.

As one would expect, it was heavy enough to also not be able to fly, but its chirping

and wing-flapping figure was rather authentic. Above all, its value was in the skill required to make it only the size of a pigeon.

Since the nobles that came from afar didn't bring any golems with them, Dominique's 'Loiseau' was the last one.

"Splendid work, everyone. It is difficult to say which one is the best, but later on We will rank them using Our own judgement, so no hard feelings."

The King's voice echoed.

"Be that as it may, time for consideration is needed. And therefore, even though it is a stand-up meal, please enjoy the food. Everyone, I'd like you to put aside your rank and freely enjoy yourselves."

CHAPTER 26

SURPRISE ATTACK

“All the actors are in place.”

“Then, let’s begin.”



Egelia Kingdom’s royal castle was said to have an impregnable defense that was a point of pride.

After the Great Magic War, the structure was built drawing on the experiences of the war.

The outer walls could withstand physical attacks, while the inner walls specialized in defense against magic.

Furthermore, there was a magic barrier to prevent the entry of suspicious people.

Finally, the best Imperial Guard knights and high-power golem troops were chosen.

These were the factors behind why Egelia Kingdom’s royal castle was said to be impregnable.



The unveiling of the golems began just before noon, but as the unveiling dragged on for over two hours, now it was already the afternoon.

People like Jin were getting bored.

As the King instructed, at last the late luncheon preparations started. Maids prepared the tables and carried food in. It looked like it would still take a moment before it was finished.

Beana used that time to go greet her teacher Gladia Hampton. Since Jin had free time, he decided he may as well follow.

“Teacher, long time no see.”

Gladia Hampton, who was having a friendly chat with someone next to them stopped the conversation, looked at Beana,

“...Who were you again?”,

They said with a face that made it seem they weren’t very interested.

“Have you forgotten? I’m Beana, until last year I was under your tutelage, teacher.”

After saying so, Gladia Hampton thought about it for a bit, and eventually seemed to remember,

“Oh, you. Excuse me, I have so many pupils.”

“Oh no, don’t mind it.”

“So, what can I do for you? Are you here because you made a golem too? Although I don’t think I heard them mention your name.”

“Eh, no, about that.”

Jin gave a helping hand to Beana who was pressed for an answer.

“Nice to meet you, Hampton-sensei. Beana’s been my assistant, and that’s why she’s attending here today.”

“You are?”

“Ah, excuse me, my name is Jin.”

“Hm, so?”

“No no, that’s all. Come on Beana, you’ve said hi, let’s go.”

Jin said, and pulled Beana away from Gladia Hampton.

Gladia Hampton seemed to have already forgotten about Beana, and returned to the conversation with the nearby person.

“...”

Beana was disheartened. Because in her heart she held wishes like even if just for a moment, she wanted to show the teacher she looked up to how much she had grown, and, if possible, be praised by them. But those hopes were quickly dashed.

“Well, isn’t it like that?”

Jin thought and thought about what he should say, then spoke.

“A teacher teaches a lot of pupils, right? From a pupil’s perspective the teacher is only one person, but from the teacher’s perspective the pupils are a crowd. It’s not something you can completely memorize.”

“...Mm, I guess. Oh well. Thanks, jin.”

Beana seemed to cheer up a bit, and Jin took her towards the food that had been set up.

Jin was hungry, and next to him Beana also cheerfully walked forwards to eat the lined up cuisine.



The gem that amplifies Magic Energy, Elradrite.

A standard piece of Elradrite could amplify Magic Energy 20-fold.

Combining two of these would make it 20 times 20, a 400-fold increase. What if you were to then combine two more?

The answer is a 16,000-fold increase. Granted, it doesn’t work out simply as the calculations, but the real result is not less than a 10,000-fold increase.

And so, the 10,000-fold increase of Magic Energy allows for the writing of Magi Formulas on Control Cores, usually done at contact distance, to be done at a range of 20 meters.

“[Erase], [Writing].”

That golem, at the behest of its master, released all of its hidden strength.



Jin felt a chill run down his spine.

It was the same as the Magic Energy he felt the other day.

“Shib, whabs whong?”

Beana asked while her mouth was stuffed with meat. In spite of that, Jin replied with a grim face,

“Beana, be careful.”

“Huh?”

“Aaaaaaaaahh!”

At that instant, a shriek echoed in the hall.

“Beana, here!”

“Huh...Eek?”

Beana who was suddenly pulled by Jin stumbled and almost fell, but Jin caught her in his arms and activated his Magi Tool.

“Barrier.”

All the golems that participated in the golem party, no, even the golems who carried meals for the tables to help the maids’ preparations, all began to run wild.

“Eeeek!”

“Gah!”

Everywhere in the hall noises of things breaking and of screaming could be heard.

“Wha- what is going on?”

“Your Majesty, Your Highness, do not be afraid, I will protect you.”

Actually, it wasn't all the golems.

“You're...fine? Lotte?”

“Yes.”

The golem Jin built, 'Lotte', and...

“Schwarz Ritter! Stop the golems running berserk!”

“Jawohl.”

...Reinhardt's Schwarz Ritter.

“Ugh! Tauros, what's the matter!?”

“Aah! My Helios!”

The rest of the golems had been removed from under their masters' control, and were running riot as they pleased.

“Argh!”

“Hyah! Stop, stop it!”

The Imperial Guard knights there struggled hard, but the difference in numbers was too vast. The number of knights was just short of ten, and there was no way they could restrain the over forty golems.

Even though they were armed with swords, their opponents were unfeeling metal puppets, while they were flesh-and-blood people. Nine became eight, and eight

became seven.

You could say that under the circumstances, the vice-captain of the Imperial Guard knights who was by the King and the Prince was putting up a good fight.

“Take this!”

The only people in the hall who were allowed weapons were the Imperial Guard knights. Among them, the vice-captain Bruno had a famous sword with Adamantite coating.

Swinging it with all his strength, he had the power to cut the bronze golems into slices.

Currently, Bruno had cut down three golems.

“King! I’ll keep them at bay! Please escape!”

“Y- Yes.”

The king of Egelia and the third prince Ernest left their seats. Accompanying them was only Lotte. Their goal was the emergency exit in the corner of the hall.

When they got close to the emergency exit, in front of their eyes the exit was broken through, and the castle’s bodyguard golems rushed into the hall.

CHAPTER 27

CHAOTIC MELEE

“Argh!”

The emergency exit door was blown off, and two golems rushed at the King and the Prince. However,

“I won’t let you!”

Protecting them was the bronze-colored maid golem.

“Lotte!”

Lotte, with her delicate hands blocked one of the attacking security golems, and in addition flung away her opponent.

Her arm was barely dented by it, but not minding that she challenged the other golem, and with a splendid twist of her arm wrenched that one’s arm away away too.

She then grabbed the other arm, swung the golem around and sent it flying.

Lotte then turned to the royals and informed them of the present conditions.

“Your Majesty, your Highness. It seems likely that most of the golems in the castle are on a rampage.”



Combat golems like security golems and knight golems came pouring from the other exits and entrances too.

Jin and Beana were inside the barrier, and none of the golems’ attacks could touch them. Despite that,

“Beana, are you alright?”

“Whawhawhawhawhawwhat’s gogogogogogogoging on?”

Jin lightly patted the panicking Beana's shoulder to calm her down,

"Settle down. You'll be fine as long as you're by my side."

He told her, and began to explain the state of things.

"The golems in the castle have probably been hijacked."

"But how!?"

Jin then briefly told the story of the golem 'Albus' he had an encounter with together with Reinhardt.

"The Magic Energy I felt this time was several hundred, no, several thousand times stronger. Moreover, both [Erase] and [Writing] were used. You do understand what this means, right?"

Beana nodded with a pale face,

"Right... We don't know who the opponent is, but the golems obey only that opponent's commands, is what you're saying."

"That's right. Perhaps the only ones that have not been hijacked are my 'Lotte' and Reinhardt's 'Schwarz Ritter'."

Jin paused for a moment, then continued.

"I don't know if I should call it lucky or not, but it looks like they could give only simple commands with [Writing]... That is to say, commands like 'act violently', or 'attack people'."



"Schwarz Ritter, crush it!"

Reinhardt analyzed the current situation just like Jin, and he came to the conclusion that this state of affairs was extremely bad. It looked like everyone in the hall simply couldn't be saved, and so Reinhardt searched for Elsa and Earl Kuzuma. He had lost sight of them during the outset of the mayhem.

Reinhardt surveyed his surroundings and gave orders to Schwarz Ritter.

Right now, he had knocked down a knight golem that had come from outside.

“Take that guy’s sword. Alright, now come here.”

As fast as he could, Reinhardt had Schwarz Ritter acquire a sword. With this he would have a means of attacking.

“Elsa! Lewis! Where are you! Are you okay!?”

Reinhardt called for Elsa and Earl Kuzuma. As an answer to that,

“Reinhardt! I’m fine!”

Hearing that voice, Reinhardt’s moment of relief was only brief, as Earl Kuzuma was attacked by a golem.

“Schwarz Ritter!”

The golem attacking Earl Kuzuma was Zingel, and in the nick of time Schwarz Ritter sliced its leg off.

“Thanks, you saved me.”

Reinhardt came running to Earl Kuzuma, told him to stay by his side, and,

“Barrier.”

He activated the Ring of Protection he got from Jin. Now for the time being the two of them would be safe.

“Where’s Elsa!?”

That being the case, the next concern was Elsa.

Elsa had been isolated.

She wasn’t wounded thanks to the Ring of Protection she had got from Jin, but golems everywhere surrounded her.

“Rai-nii...Jin, kun...”

Because of the barrier, the golems had come to a stop 30 centimeters away from Elsa, but at the middle of them Elsa seemed anxious and about to burst into tears.

“Help...me...”



“Shit, what’s going on!”

Most of the nobles were lying on the floor completely ignorant of who did what. Half of them had been struck unconscious by their own golems by their side, or otherwise seriously injured.

“Ceres! It’s me! Don’t you recognize me!?”

Celuroa Kingdom’s Magi Craftsman Stearina’s crystal golem Ceres was no exception to the rampage.

But since its body was made out of crystal, it was weak to impacts.

Its hand swung and missed, accidentally hit another golem that was passing by, and was smashed to pieces.

“Aah! Ceres!”

While swinging its remaining arm it hit a wall by accident, and in the end Ceres lost both of its arms. Since there was no longer a danger of getting hit, Stearina was clinging onto Ceres,

“Please! Just stop already! I don’t want to see you get broken!”

While saying so, Stearina used Craft Magic.

“[Writing].”

For now, the only ones who could use [Erase] were Jin and the mystery golem. Therefore to stop Ceres, Stearina chose to use [Writing].

After that, Ceres’s control instructions became a mess, and it halted.

Her moment of relief was brief, as Stearina took a golem’s blow to the head from behind, and lost consciousness. At the same time, Ceres was also destroyed by that

golem.



“Urgh!”

In the middle of remarkably high screams was Tauros. Even though it didn’t have a sword, just the mass of a gigantic tower shield as tall as a human was enough to be a dangerous weapon.

With one swing it could blow away three or four people.

“Sto-Stop it, Tauros!”

Tauros’s Magi Craftsman, Jade Nepheloi tried to desperately stop Tauros.

But it didn’t stop. In the end, the tower shield Tauros swung around grazed Jade’s arm, and blood spilled out.

“Eee!”

It was just a scratch, but Jade went white as a sheet and fled. However, another golem was already waiting ahead.

Fortunately for him, that golem was a female-type. Therefore, when he took a blow it only resulted in a broken rib.

Although, because of the pain Jade collapsed on the spot, spat out blood and fainted.



“King! Prince! Are you safe!?”

Finally a group of Imperial Guard knights came running. They numbered 15. They were each clad in armor full of scrapes and dents.

It was only natural, as to just reach this hall they had to take on dozens of golems.

“Spread out! Move in groups of threes!”

The commanding officer instructed. They were not to have blind spots when defending against golems attacking from all directions. With one person each being

responsible for their own 120 degrees they made gradual progress.

They had to rescue the King and the Prince, but it was absolutely necessary to also rescue the country's other leaders like the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finances, the Minister of Defense, etc.

"A-, a- aaaahh! St-stay awaaaay!"

"Dammit!"

Just then, one of the Imperial Guard knights slashed at a gilded golem who was attacking a fat Earl. However, it was sturdier than it looked, and suffered only a shallow wound.

On the other hand, the sword of the knight who struck it chipped.

"Shit, so the appearance is deceptive."

Because it was slashed, the golem's target changed and it turned from the fat Earl to the group of knights.

"It's coming, be cautious."

All three of the knights gripped their swords tightly, prepared for battle.



"Shit! Don't get in my way!"

The commanding officer of the Royal Guard knights, Kelly, was crossing swords with the golem Beana's teacher Gladia Hampton had built, Iron.

It was a nuisance since it had grabbed a sword off one of the already defeated security golems.

A normal security golem was about one head taller than a human, and that meant its reach was longer. Its body weight was three to five times more than a human's, and the same went for its power.

The custom-made Iron was evaluated by Jin to be 'standard', but nonetheless it had a higher performance than a security golem. For this reason it could cross blades equally with the commanding officer of the knights, and a normal knight wouldn't

likely be a match for it.

And so on, and so on, and so on.

The hall was dominated by chaos, screams, and clanks. Mixed in with the smell of iron, the scene had turned ghastly.

Most of the participants were wounded or passed out, and some unlucky ones had already stopped breathing.

In the middle of it all, at last a counterattack was starting.

CHAPTER 28

START OF THE COUNTERATTACK

Jin surveyed the scene around him.

Immediately after the onset of chaos, Jin's attack magic was unusable because using [Laser] or [Water Jet] for example would carry a risk of involving the bystanders by accident because of the magics' high power and penetration.

However, now that the disorder was settling down and only a small handful of people were left standing, as long as he made sure no one was in the line of fire he could use them without hesitation.

"Beana, don't move away from me."

"Huh, huh, huh? What are you planning, Jin?"

Jin didn't have spare time to answer the confused Beana, and shot a [Laser].

He aimed at the golems that were swarming Elsa.

Since he wasn't confident that the barrier of the Ring of Protection could defend against a laser beam, instead of the golems between him and the barrier he finished off the golems on the sides.

So that this time too evidence would be left behind, he avoided the parts that contained the Magi Devices. In other words, he focused on destroying the lower halves of their bodies.

"A-, amazing..."

Beana who was next to him was more than surprised, she was astonished. That's because every time Jin's bracelet shone, a golem's lower half evaporated into nothing.

After repeating that several times, finally the golems surrounding Elsa were eradicated.

“Elsa!”

With eyes wet from tears, Elsa had been looking at the golems get defeated. That was due to Jin’s magic.

“Jin, kun...”

She moved with trembling feet, rushing towards Jin,

...And their barriers bumped and bounced off each other.

“Ow.”

Inside the barrier, Elsa fell on her backside. Jin gave an awkward smile,

“Elsa, you have to cancel the barrier, see?”

Jin said and canceled his own barrier for a moment after looking around. Similarly, Elsa canceled her barrier and Jin could help her up. Elsa’s hand that clasped Jin’s was shivering a bit.

Jin wanted to comfort Elsa who was like that, but,

“Sorry. But this place is still crawling with many more golems. If possible, I’ll leave Beana to you.”

“Eh, Jin?”

Jin stroked Elsa’s head just once, then pushed Beana towards Elsa. Elsa caught Beana in her arms. Then,

“Barrier.”

Once more a barrier covered the two.

“I’ll go assist Reinhardt and the others. You two go to that wall. In that case at least you can’t get attacked from behind.”

“...Got it. Be careful.”

She had numerous complaints, but even Elsa understood the current situation. With legs that still shivered a bit, she retreated to the wall along with Beana.



Turning back time a bit, in the state guest house. Reiko was house-sitting. She was visible.

“...The fluctuation just now.”

Reiko felt a powerful surge of magic flow over her.

“It’s the same kind of magic that that golem Albus used earlier. The direction... inside the castle, in the direction of the banquet hall?”

Reiko calmly began to walk.

“W-Where are you going?”

The Royal Secret Maid Laila who was left behind asked Reiko, who only gave a brief reply,

“Father... is in danger.”

She muttered and rushed out of the room.

“Hey, wait!”

Laila came rushing after Reiko, but,

“Eep!”

Her breath was taken away when he saw the disastrous scene in the hallway.

The golems with miscellaneous duties were running rampant. She then witnessed Reiko destroy them with minor strikes.

“Awawawawa!”

Laila returned to the room in a hurry and locked the door.

“W- what on earth?”

There was no one to answer her.

The other party, Reiko, increased her output even more and sped through the hallway. She went to the usual 20% Jin permitted.

In front of her stood two security golems.

“You’re on the way.”

Reiko swung her fist just once. As a result, the two security golems were blown away, breaking through the guest house’s wall and flying outside, scattered to pieces.

“As I thought, it’s the magic from earlier.”

Reiko muttered while advancing.

The first one was weak, while the second one was strong. Jin didn’t probably feel the second one, but Reiko did. It was near the place where golems were on standby.

That’s to say, all of the golems kept in the reserve, whether they were for war potential or chores, were under the effects.

One word describes the scene Reiko saw after leaving the guest house’s premises: chaos. Everywhere golems and knights or soldiers battled.

Fallen soldiers and broken golems lay on top of one another, the royal palace’s courtyard was like a battlefield. It was obvious that the human side’s situation was dire, but Reiko’s first priority was Jin’s safety.

Although, the attacking golems were so numerous that it was impossible to disregard them. So inevitably Reiko had to destroy many of the golems there.

“I- I’m saved...”

“W-, what is that girl?”

“A golem...No, an Automata?”

Perhaps Reiko seemed like a lifesaver to the wounded soldiers.

Security golems, knight golems, chore golems. Golem upon golem had risen in revolt against humans.

While slaughtering a large amount of golems like them, Reiko continued on.

“?”

In the middle of it all, Reiko noticed an out-of-place white bird-type golem mixed in with the others, but as Reiko’s current priority was rushing to where Jin was, she didn’t take a detailed look.

Finally Reiko finished crossing the courtyard, and she arrived at the gate to the heart of the royal castle, the inner palace. However, that area was closed off by a massive iron gate.

As an experiment Reiko tried pushing it, but whether because it was barred on the inside or not it didn’t budge. Therefore Reiko quickly took alternative measures.

Namely, destruction.

Boom, and the iron gate bent with a remarkably loud noise.

“Surprisingly durable, aren’t you.”

The gap she created was about 30 centimeters wide. To withstand Reiko’s blow at 20% power like that, the door’s sturdiness was apparent.

It was expected, as the door was ten centimeters thick. However, this was enough to let Reiko pass.

Through the gate’s gap, there was more chaos.

In the plaza at the front of the inner palace, Imperial Guard knights and magi knights were assaulting the golems. The Imperial Guard knights used their excellent sword skills, and the magi knights used fire-system magic to aim at the golems’ weak points.

The typical golem in this castle used bronze as a material. The melting point of bronze with five percent tin in it was around 1050 degrees Celsius. When mixed with lead or such, it was lower.

The golems made of impure materials deformed when bathed in fire magic, and

became unable to move.

Having said that, spells like Fireball or Fire Bullet were no good, at least Flame Ball was needed to have an effect.

In addition, the number of magi knights who could cast Flame Ball was small.

In the middle of such chaos, Reiko advanced towards the hall while repelling the hindrances.

Fortunately, here the golems had already fought for a while with the knights, so golems that attacked Reiko were scarce. Due to that, Reiko was able to move faster than before.

Furthermore, no one who was fighting there had any leeway to notice the small girl running towards the royal palace at a staggering pace.

Inside the royal castle, more chaos reigned. Golems lunged at Reiko wielding swords, fists, even mops, brooms, and other household implements.

“Truly annoying.”

Even though they couldn’t wound her, they could be a very irritatingly hinder movement. So, Reiko found a broken household golem lying nearby, grabbed its foot and brandished it as a weapon.

The sight of 33-kilogram Reiko (3 kilograms heavier than before) wielding an over 100-kilogram bronze golem was surreal, but the results were extraordinary.

Although inside the five meters wide and three meters tall hall the golem Reiko waved around scraped the walls and splinters and pieces of it scattered, the approaching golems were knocked down.

“Just weight in itself can also be a weapon...”

Reiko didn’t stop walking while she thought such things. Beyond the open doors she could see what was surely Jin’s magic’s, [Laser]’s, light annihilating golems.

“Father! I’ll be there soon!”

Reiko increased her speed even further.



Reinhardt and Schwarz Ritter, and the groups of Imperial Guard Knights had somehow managed to gather the survivors into one place.

Elsa and Beana had also met up with them, and were giving first-aid treatment to with healing magic to those who were the most seriously injured.

“There’s a lot of them!”

Schwarz Ritter defended against the attacking waves of Golems with the Imperial Guard knights’ backing.

“Schwarz Ritter! Behind you!”

Schwarz Ritter sent a security golem flying to help out a woman it was attacking.

“T-thank you...”

It was Celuroa Kingdom’s special envoy Dominique. She seemed to be okay.

“Come, there’s relative safety here.”

Reinhardt explained and again dispatched Schwarz Ritter.

The Imperial Guard knight teams then battled with all their strength and rescued two more wounded people. And then one more.

“Elsa-sama, please heal them!”

“Got it.”

She replied, but when she looked at the wounded person her face became stiff. Because it was Earl Guarana.

His face was swollen, and his nose broken. His right arm and left leg were twisted into a strange shape. To make matters worse, blood poured out of his mouth as if his ribs had been broken, he was on the verge of death from his wounds.

“[Schmerzmittel], [Heal].”

Elsa used healing magic to give him emergency first aid.

During that,

“Hey! That’s His Majesty and... His Highness!”

One of the Imperial Guard knights in a group saw the King and the Prince far away.

The two were protected by a makeshift wall of unmoving golems and a bronze-colored golem maid.



Even though it could be called a wall, there was no way it could defend them completely.

By now, Lotte had rendered dozens of golems powerless.

Her arms were covered in scratches and some of her fingers were torn off. There was no trace of the maid outfit she had worn, her beautiful body was also dented and chipped here and there, and each time she moved her joints made creaking noises.

“Lotte, are you okay?”

Prince Ernest asked worriedly.

“Yes, Your Highness. I can still go on.”

While saying so, Lotte took on an attacking knight golem’s sword with her arm to, defend the Prince.



But it had a high price, as finally her right arm broke off from the elbow down.

“Aah! Lotte!”

But Lotte said calmly,

“Do not worry. I do not feel pain. This degree of...Your Highness, watch out!”

“Agh!”

Another security golem came to attack.

“I won’t let you!”

Lotte intercepted it. However, since her right arm was unusable, she couldn’t defend against the security golem’s left fist and took it to the chest.

Lotte’s chest caved in a great deal, but without minding it she slipped her usable left arm past the opponent’s extended right arm, and grabbed the golem’s head.

Immediately afterwards in a single move she applied force with her left arm, and sent the opponent flying while it spun like a spinning top.

“Y...You’re amazing, Lotte”

The Prince uttered words of admiration.

“Yes, that’s because Father made me this way.”

“The one who made you, you mean...”

The King who was listening tried to say something, but,

“Watch out!”

This time a sword brushed against the King. It was a knight golem. The opponent was a rather heavy load on Lotte’s shoulders as she had lost an arm. Even so, Lotte didn’t draw back a step, and challenged the golem face-on to protect the King and the Prince.

Lotte’s advantages were speed and flexibility. Facing the knight golem directly was a bit harsh. However, if it was necessary Lotte would do it, that’s how she was, with her

motherly nature from Malloum and movements from Rianna as basis.

The knight golem swung its sword downward from overhead. Lotte caught it with her useless right arm. Because of the impact the remaining part separated from her shoulder. But it was enough to slow down the knight's slash.

With her remaining left hand she gripped the sword, and twisted it using the principle of leverage. The dumbfounded knight golem's right hand was cut off by the wrist, and just like that Lotte was left with the sword in hand.

Lotte didn't have the time to change her grip, so while holding it by the blade she struck a blow at the knight golem's neck.

The sword bit about halfway in, and the knight golem's movements became slow. Lotte then finally had the time to adjust her grip, and with the sword in hand drove in another blow.

This time the knight golem's head was cut off, but the opponent didn't stop yet. Lotte then thrust her sword down hole on the neck.

With the destruction of the Magi Device inside the golem's body, this time for sure the knight golem was stopped.

"Lotte! Are you alright?"

"Yes, Your Highness."

However, the fight just now tore off three of the fingers in Lotte's left hand, and she was no longer able to hold the sword and it fell. Seeing that they were sure she was nearing her limits.

At that moment, Lotte felt a wave of Magic Energy.

"Your Majesty, Your Highness, there is no longer need to fear."

"W-why?"

"What for?"

Facing the troubled-looking King and Prince, Lotte smiled with a face full of wounds,

“Because Elder Sister has arrived.”

CHAPTER 29

OVERWHELMING

“Lotte’s... Sister?”

The Prince looked perplexed. While smiling, Lotte nodded and pointed with her left hand that had let go of the sword.

“Yes, over there.”

Lotte pointed at the left side entrance to the hallway. Right now, it was the spot where the most golems were gathered, and the most chaotic spot.

From there appeared a girl wearing a light blue dress and a white apron dress.

“It’s Elder Sister Reiko.”



“Father!”

Scattering the rows of golems, Reiko rushed into the hall. Whether the obstructing golems were chore golems or knight golems made no difference and they were all similarly blown away, as she headed towards Jin’s location.

“Oh, it’s Reiko! I was just thinking that you’d be here any time now.”

Reiko smiled delightedly at the admission of trust, and,

“So, what would you like me to do first?”,

She asked Jin for instructions. Jin had just one order.

“Protect the people, and disable the attacking golems.”

“Yes!”

Reiko kicked the floor with force, and jumped into the fray of the swarming golems. With a swing of her right arm a knight golem was blown to pieces, and with a swing

of her left arm a security golem sunk into a wall.

When Reinhardt saw it,

“Ah, Reiko-chan has come!”

“Eh? Reiko-chan?”

Elsa and Beana looked towards Reiko, their eyes wide.

The amount of the grouped up golems was decreasing noticeably. Not just by one or two golems, but in groups of five to ten golems.

“Alright, now’s the time! Schwarz Ritter, rescue the remaining survivors!”

Reinhardt saw it was a good opportunity and leaving the handling of the golems to Reiko he decided to use all of his strength in rescuing the survivors.

“Behave yourselves!”

Reiko blew away the golems.

She had already defeated more than 60 of the rampaging golems, but knocking down one after another there were more golems to come.

Seeing that, Jin worked out a plan and gathered a bunch of metal fragments of the golems scattered about,

“[Fusion].”

He melded them together,

“[Forming].”

And then shaped them. What he made was a blunt weapon called a mace. Its weight was about 200 kilograms or so.

Finally he applied [Hardening] to increase its endurance, and it was finished.

“Heeey, Reiko!”

Even though she was in the middle of a melee, Reiko caught Jin's voice and immediately came to his side.

"It's hastily made, but try using this."

He pointed at the mace he had made. Reiko immediately sensed its usefulness.

"Understood, I will gladly accept it.",

She said, picked up the mace *with one hand*, and said,

"Then I'll continue cleaning up."

With those parting words she again thrust herself in the middle of the group of golems.

"....."

"..."

Watching the whole exchange from beginning to end from nearby were Celuroa Kingdom's special envoy Dominique, and the Magi Craftsman of the same Celuroa Kingdom, Stearina.

Both Reiko's strength and Jin's Craft Magic were so far away from their standards they were lost for words as they watched.

Reiko swung the mace, and four or five chore golems were blown away in one go.

"This is fine, isn't it."

As far as Reiko's concerned, even wielding nothing more than a wooden pole would have an extraordinary effect.

In front of the whooshing mace the golems scattered and were sent flying as if they were scarecrows. Ten golems, twenty, thirty.



After ten more golems, most of them had disappeared.

And, after Reiko spotted the remaining golems she swung once more.

But that swing was stopped.

“That’s...Tauros!”

The golem Duke Blue brought with him, Tauros, blocked the mace Reiko swung with its giant tower shield.

“So you can block this. It seems you’ve got a bit of strength.”

Reiko gripped the mace she had so far wielded with one hand with both of her hands, and with a big windup,

“Let’s see you block this!”

She struck at Tauros.

A thunderous roar resounded through the hall.

The mace Reiko wielded was smashed up, and Tauros’s tower shield along with its left hand that held it were pulverized.

“Rather robust, aren’t you.”

Reiko dropped the unusable mace, and faced Tauros with her slender body.

“This is payback for breaking the mace Father built and gave to me!”

At that moment, Reiko increased her power output to 30 percent for an instant. Like that, Reiko performed a ramming attack.

In this world, excluding the phenomenon of magic, the laws of physics don’t differ much from Earth’s.

If a light object and a heavy object collide, the light object bounces back. But that’s when talking about situations with no friction, resistance, etc.

In addition, you must take into account their individual strength.

The 250-kilogram Tauros made of steel, and the 33-kilogram Reiko made without sparing rare materials.

Tauros's speed was about zero. Reiko's speed in comparison at the moment of the impact was about 50 meters per second.

A sound louder than the earlier thunderous roar could be heard, and metal-odored smoke shrouded the area.

When the dust cleared up, Tauros could no longer be seen, there was only the figure of Reiko brushing the dust off her body.

The present survivors all felt relieved at the resulting silence.

"Is it...over?"

Someone muttered, and with that the heavy strain on their shoulders disappeared, as it did from the weakened people who were sitting on the floor.

Meanwhile, the vice-captain of the Imperial Guard knights, Bruno, moved to the King and the Prince despite his wounded body.

"Your Majesty, Your Highness, you made it."

"Oh, Bruno, so you were safe too."

"Please come this way, the survivors are gathering."

"Is that so? I understand."

With that all the survivors had finally gathered in one spot.

"Your Majesty!"

"Ah, Prime Minister, so you were safe too"

"It's good that Your Highness alright too."

“Mmh, thanks to Lotte’s help.”

Lotte, covered in wounds, was behind the King and the Prince waiting on them.

The King and the Prince, and cabinet ministers such as the Prime Minister Galueri, Minister of Finances Blaoroot, Minister of Magic Kelhidore, and the Ministers of Defense, Domestic Affairs, and Foreign Affairs.

Nobles like Duke Blue, Earl Kuzuma, Earl Guarana, and Viscount Grieri.

Invitees Reinhardt, Elsa, Celuroa’s special envoy Dominique, Stearina, and so forth.

Magi Craftsmen like Yarui-Dale, Jade Nepheloi, Gladia Hampton, Bootes, et cetera.

The commanding officer of the Imperial Guard knight company, and the vice-captain.

Some had serious injuries, but they weren’t life-threatening.

On the other hand, the escorting soldiers and Imperial Guard knight troops didn’t get away with just a few casualties.



Due to the immensely powerful Reiko’s activities clearing away most of the golems in the hall, and it seeming like more golems weren’t going to rush in any more, the leaders of Egelia Kingdom discussed what to do from now on.

From among them, the Minister of Magic Kelhidore asked,

“Reinhardt-dono, why weren’t your Schwarz Ritter and Earl Kuzuma’s Lotte among the rioting golems?”

It was surely the number one question in everyone’s minds.

Reinhardt replied by explaining the story about the criminal in Elias Kingdom, Valentino, and the golem Albus he used.

He said he had surely already reported the matter to Elias Kingdom and Egelia Kingdom through the proper channels, and had finished remodeling his Schwarz Ritter to resist against interference by outside magic.

“I hadn’t heard any story about a golem like that. The report must’ve come to stop somewhere.”

On that note, the Minister of Magic went silent with a troubled expression.

Jin then turned up there along with Reiko.

“Oh, Jin! And Miss Reiko! You saved us!”

Reinhardt greeted Jin. Earl Kuzuma also expressed his thanks,

“Jin, Lotte whom you built commendably protected His Majesty and His Highness, you have my thanks!”

When Jin heard it,

“Eh? Lotte did?”,

He said and looked around, and found Lotte behind him. In front of her were the King and the Prince.

When the King heard Jin’s name, he said,

“Oh, so you are the Magi Craftsman called Jin. We heard from Kuzuma, you’re an excellent Magi Craftsman. Good work on building a golem as splendid as this Lotte.”

“Oh, thank you very much.”

When the King said so, Jin lowered his head. Although he didn’t know the etiquette for an occasion like this, he thought it should be fine if he just behaved modestly.

“In addition, Reiko, was it. A splendid piece of work. Is she also yours?”

“Yes, she’s an Automata.”

“Hm, is that so. We have many things We would like to ask, but first, let Us express Our thanks.”

Everyone in the vicinity was surprised when the king of the whole country thanked a mere Magi Craftsman.

“Jin, was it? We were saved thanks to you! If you can, could you fix Lotte?”

The one who talked was Prince Ernest.

At his remark, Jin raised his head and took a long hard look at Lotte who was behind them.

The maid outfit she was wearing had been completely torn to pieces and lost, and her right arm had come off from the shoulder. Her left hand was missing the middle finger, the ring finger, and the little finger, and throughout her body were countless of bruises and dents.

“Lotte, come over here.”

Jin beckoned and Lotte came over while limping a little.

Looking close her condition was even more severe than thought.

“Lotte, you did great. You protected His Majesty and His Highness well even though you became like this. I’m proud of you.”

Like so, Jin kindly showed his consideration for the wound-covered Lotte.

CHAPTER 30

WRAP-UP

“But King, while this place seems to be sorted out one way or another, I think there still are golems rioting elsewhere inside the royal palace. Without cleaning them up this turmoil won’t end.”

The Prime Minister Galueri said.

“Hmm, it is as you say. That being the case, We shall leave the handling hereafter to you and the Minister of Defense.”

“Yes.”

The Prime Minister Galueri bowed, and turned towards the Minister of Defense Judol, whose painful-looking broken arm had a splint.

“Judol, even though you’re wounded you’re still the Minister of Defense of our country. You’ll come, right?”

“Of course I’ll come with you.”

Judol said and stood up.

Kelly, the commanding officer of the Imperial Guard knight troops said,

“You four over there, go accompany them as guards.”

And so the four relatively lightly injured knights followed the ministers.

“Schwarz Ritter, you go with them too. After escorting them, come back.”

“Ja!”

Reinhardt also had Schwarz Ritter accompany them just in case.

“Hmm, the arm, it...”

While being protected by Reiko, Jin looked for Lotte's parts.

"Oh, found it."

The lost right arm was discovered. Both the parts from the elbow to the fingertips and to the shoulder.

"Alright, Lotte, lie down there."

"Yes, Father."

Since there wasn't a workbench or anything of the like, the tables left in one piece were lined up and Lotte lay down on them.

"[Standstill]."

Jin had Lotte go into suspension temporarily. He then began to first connect the right arm.

Lotte's steel endoskeleton had Magical Muscles. And her exterior was bronze.

As the Magical Muscles were considerably damaged, he couldn't repair them more than to the extent of somehow enabling normal movements.

"Ooh, so Lotte's structure was like that."

Prince Ernest said something akin to admiration while peeking from the side.

"Your Highness, are you interested in the makeup of golems?"

Jin asked, and,

"Yes, I do! I'll make a golem myself too when I'm a little older!",

The prince answered innocently.

The surface dents and scratches could be mended with Craft Magic.

As the Mana of the Mana Tank was running rather low, he refilled it in advance.

"Jin, isn't this Lotte's finger?"

From nearby, Beana brought an object like one of Lotte's fingers.

“Y-you’re...”

“?”

Seeing Beana like that, Prince Ernest was lost for words and went stiff.

“Your highness?”

Jin thought it was strange and he called out for him, but suddenly the prince took Beana’s hand and said,

“You! Your name is?”

“It’s B-Beana.”

Beana gave her name while taken aback and not knowing what’s what. Still holding confused Beana’s hand, the prince said,

“Beana, huh! What a good name! Hey Beana, won’t you become my bride?”

“Eeeeeeeh!!”

Suddenly a preposterous suggestion was made.

“I fancied you at first sight! Because you look exactly like Lotte!”

Maybe this could still be called the suspension bridge effect, as the prince seemed to have fallen in love at first sight with Beana, the model for Lotte who the prince got an interest in after her protecting him from danger.

Although he was just barely 13, so it wasn’t certain to what extent he understood what he was asking.

“I cannot allow that, Your Highness!”

A single person forced his way through. He was none other than Earl Kuzuma.

“As I already have planned to propose to Beana!”

“Eh...?”

“Ah...”

Right next to him, Beana heard the Earl’s vigorously stated words.

“Eeeeeeeeh!?”

She turned bright red and ran away from the place. Although, she couldn’t leave the hall so she simply went to the place where Elsa was treating the wounded.

“...”

“.....”

“.....”

Left behind were the Prince, the Earl, and Jin. The atmosphere turned vaguely awkward.

“Uh, let’s see, oh, this is indeed Lotte’s middle finger.”

Jin spoke forcedly while using the finger Beana found and brought to fix Lotte.



The hall’s situation was like that, while the clean-up battle for the royal palace’s insides was about to begin.

“Alright, with this the preparations are complete.”

The treasured Imperial Guard knight golems of the Minister of Defense Judol. As they weren’t usually ever activated, their Magi Devices were removed to make them inert, and for that reason they were safe.

The Minister of Magic Kelhidore activated them, and they began their startup.

Five Imperial Guard knight golems had started up.

“Alright, you’re expected to defeat the golems who don’t obey our orders. Got it?”

“Yes, Sir.”

The five Imperial Guard knight golems who held shields in their left hands and swords in their right hands left the cellar of the Ministry of Defense.

“The first step should be fine now.”

“Onto the next then.”

Next they activated ten golems meant for emergency use. These ones were all-purpose types, and they were given orders to assemble and protect the wounded people inside the castle.

After that they activated ten spare security golems. They were made to assist in the defense of the castle’s insides.

Just then, the sound of a bird flapping wings could be heard. Judol looked out of the window, and saw a pigeon-like bird flying in the evening sky.

“A pigeon, huh. An enviable thing.”

The Minister of Defense Judol muttered and turned back to the business at hand, and resumed his discussion with the Minister of Magic Kelhidore.

As expected, it seemed the scope of the surbordination magic attack wasn’t centered in the castle but the hall area, and the golems in the royal palace’s second and third floors weren’t affected.

That is, the Queen, the second Prince, and the first Prince were safe.

“We can conjecture that the temporarily so-called [Subordination Rewriting Magic]’s effect’s radius is about 20 to 30 meters, having the strongest effect at around a 10 meter radius.”

Kelhidore guessed the effective range from the circumstances of the rampaging golems. From now on countermeasures had to be put to use and recorded, he said.



There weren’t more than 30 remaining golems, and facing the Imperial Guard golems they were quickly neutralized.

Thus, the rampaging golems inside the castle were eradicated, and by nighttime the

treatment of the wounded was over and order was restored in the castle.

The participants of the party who had the most severe wounds were sent into the sickbay, while the lightly wounded people returned to their allotted rooms after receiving medical care.

After collecting the usable parts of the destroyed golems, that is, the Magi Devices et cetera, the best materials were returned for reuse.

That meant the Magi Craftsmen who were able to were asked to assist in the task as necessary.



“This time, thanks to your efforts the damage could be kept at a minimum, We are grateful.”

In his office, the King of Egelia, Harold Ruan Autocracy expressed his gratitude towards Jin and Reinhardt.

“In particular, Jin, We cannot thank you enough. Because there is no doubt that the golem you built, Lotte, saved Us and Our son.”

The King said, and continued,

“And so by all rights We would’ve liked to make you a noble and the Royal Magi Craftsman, but We hear you have already decided to go to Shouro Empire. It is unfortunate, but there is nothing We can do about it.”

There’s no question about Jin ‘going’ there. But the King interpreted the meaning of that word by his own accord. Jin felt relieved from the bottom of his heart along with gratitude for Reinhardt.

“However,”

The King’s speech still continued.

“We most certainly would like you to give Us the method of defending against that subordination magic attack. Naturally you will be recompensated. You can state your wish in advance. We will grant it to the best of Our abilities.”

The King told Jin, who was thinking about just what to request.

CHAPTER 31

APPROACH

“In that case, I’d like you to not investigate matters regarding Reiko.”

Jin had decided what favor to ask.

“Hmm, wasn’t Reiko the golem, no, the Automata girl who repelled the other golems in a flash? ...Very well. It is most exceedingly unfortunate, but We shall grant you your wish.”

Hearing that, Jin let out a sigh of relief.

The King gave some instructions to an aide who was waiting nearby,

“We have seen to it that the Prime Minister and the other cabinet ministers respect your wishes. But We cannot settle it with just that. We will bestow you something later.”

“Thank you very much.”

And then, Jin brought up the matter he was currently most concerned about.

“By the way, have you found this time’s culprit or the crime golem?”

The one who answered the question was the commanding officer of the Imperial Guard knight troops, Kelly.

“Your concern is natural. The magi knights are devoting all of their power to searching. In addition, according to reports the last one of the rampaging golems was suppressed not long ago.”

“Is that so.”

The current situation was that after having the guest of a guest Jin perform such a great service the Imperial Guard knight troops wanted to at least bring the matter to conclusion by themselves.

“Your Majesty, Your Highness, it looks like the danger has already passed. Please, feel free to go rest in your room.”

The King was relieved by the report of the commanding officer of the Imperial Guard knight troops, Kelly, and said,

“In that case, Ernest, shall we take a rest? ...Minister of Domestic Affairs, We shall leave the rest to you.”

With those words the King and the Prince retired to their room while escorted by guards.

“All of you who came to attend, I cannot apologize enough for a result such as this.”

The Minister of Domestic Affairs who was left behind to handle things one by one bowed and apologized to each one of the remaining nobles and invitees.

“This place is in disorder and as it seems the guest house is safe, let us move over there.”

The minister said, and themselves took the task of leading the way towards the guest house.

En route they all noticed that the thick iron gate separating the inner and outer palace was crooked, and most were struck with terror at the thought of golems rampaging to this extent. A few people however had an idea of just who did the deed, and didn't regard it as particularly threatening.

Gathered in the hall of the guest house were the invitees and the nobles excepting those living in the royal capital. There the Minister of Domestic Affairs once more apologized.

“I know that just an apology isn't enough, but nevertheless as the representative of the royal capital I must express my apologies.”

With that preface the minister continued,

“The dinner here should be prepared shortly, so please feel free to rest and enjoy

yourselves.”

In this time of crisis they put aside their rank for the oncoming dinner, and so seating etiquette and wasn't followed.

Among the participants there were people who were felt dissatisfied regarding this incident, but as everyone was more or less mentally worn out they decided to leave that for tomorrow. Such a mood filled the room.

The Minister of Domestic Affairs thought about taking a bath, but thinking that as the attack occurred during lunch and when it was over it was evening they decided to prioritize having a meal.

Nevertheless, because of the hasty preparations there weren't enough chairs or tables, and the meal again took the form of a stand-up meal. Because the heavily injured people were sent to the sickbay, Elsa and Beana were relieved that they could go without meeting Earl Guarana.

“Ah, come to think of it, I'm starving.”

“Me too. Immediately after I began to eat the already-late lunch, that disturbance started.”

Next to Jin, Beana kept close. From a little distance away Earl Kuzuma stared at them.

Jin noticed his gaze and,

“Beana, about the Earl's proposal. How did you take it?”

He tried asking her. When Beana heard him, she seemed to nearly spit the food out of her mouth, but,

“S-stop it! I, I don't know yet!”

Eventually she managed to only answer like so.

Elsa then arrived at the scene too. She held a plate in her hand that had a pile of Citrans on it.

“Jin-kun, once again... Thank you.”

She said and bowed so that it looked like if she leaned any further with her body the Citrans would spill over and fall off her plate.

“It’s fine, don’t worry about it. It’s good that you were safe though.”

“Mm. That time was really scary.”

No matter how protected by a barrier, if golems crowded 30 centimeters in front of your eyes it no doubt be very scary.

“I’m grateful for Jin-kun and...Reiko-chan.”

She said and looked around,

“Speaking Reiko-chan, where is she?”

She asked. Jin smiled and said,

“She’s here. ...Reiko!”

“Yes, Father.”

“!!”

Reiko cancelling her [Stealth] and suddenly appearing surprised not only Elsa but Beana. No matter how much experience they got they didn’t seem to get used to her.

“The enemy in the mountain pass used [Hide], right? I studied it and made a more effective version. ...That’s all, Reiko.”

Jin said and Reiko once more disappeared.

“I see. After all, Jin-kun’s amazing.”

“Eh, [Hide]? What’s that?”

Elsa and Beana showed different reactions.

“An enemy who attacked us earlier had an item charged with that magic.”

Elsa explained. Hearing that, Beana said,

“Oh yeah. ...Elsa’s travelling with Jin, right, and they’re experiencing many things

together, right.”

“...?”

Elsa thought that Beana who suddenly seemed disheartened was suspicious,

“Beana, does your stomach hurt?”

“Eh? N-no. I’m fine.”

“Oh? Alright then. ...Ah, Rai-nii.”

Looking where Elsa was looking, Reinhardt was there. And next to him was a beautiful woman with blond hair reaching all the way to her back.

“She’s...If I’m not mistaken, Dominique-san?”

That woman was indeed Celuroa Kingdom’s special envoy Dominique. She was thick in the right places and skinny in the others, the type of woman Reinhardt seemed to prefer.

“But flirting doesn’t really float for Reinhardt.”

Jin said, to which Elsa replied,

“Flirting? Float? Rai-nii can’t fly in the sky. Or are you talking about swimming?”

A natural-airhead-like remark came and Jin explained to Elsa the misunderstanding and what flirting is. And then surprisingly,

“Rai-nii has a fiancée back home.”

Such a fact suddenly came to light.

“Oh...really, Reinhardt does.”

Elsa explained that it wasn’t unusual for male nobles to be married by the age of 20. There’s even people who get married as early as at the age of 18, she said.

“Hmm, how about the women?”

When asked that, Elsa looked surprised for a moment but soon returned to her usual expression and replied,

“There’s girls who get married as early as at the age of 13. Most usually get married when they’re between 15 and 19 years old.”

“Is that so?”

As expected this world’s age of marriage is low, Jin sincerely felt.

“Jin-kun’s how old? I’m 16.”

Elsa asked and peeked at Jin’s face. She even told her own age without asking.

“Me? I’m only 20. Oh, very soon I’ll be 20.”

Jin answered, and,

“Eeeeh?”

Beana who was listening to the conversation next to them raised a hysteric voice.

“Hey, mind the occasion.”

Jin cautioned Beana who said somewhat agitatedly ,

“Jijiji-Jin’s 20 years old!? I was certain you were my age or at most a year or two older.”

“Me too.”

Elsa also agreed, and Jin felt a little sad.

“...Do I really look that childish?”

He said subduedly, and Beana said in a hurry,

“Th-that’s not it. You’re just, uh, how should I say it...”

“Young-looking.”

Elsa gave a helping hand to Beana, but saying that didn’t make Jin much more pleased.

Certainly it’s said that Japanese people look younger compared to Western people.

However, formerly when he went to to high school his classmates used to say “Nidou-kun is kind of like an old man” or some such, so Jin was shocked greatly, so,

“Child on the outside, old man on the inside, huh.”

His self-deprecating muttering was understandable.

“Is it impolite to call you Jin-kun?”

It seems Elsa didn't think he was four years older than her so she decided to call him Jin-kun, however after being called that until now changing it would feel strange, and above all Elsa's social standing is higher than his so the same manner as before would be fine, he said.

“Sorry for interrupting your talk, Jin-dono, wasn't it?”

Just then Celuroa Kingdom's leading Magi Craftsman who built the crystal golem Ceres, Stearina, came and greeted him.

CHAPTER 32

STEARINA AND DOMINIQUE

“Let me introduce myself. I am Stearina. Stearina Gamma.

“Ah, I’m Jin.”

The intellectual-looking woman called Stearina Gamma was in front of Jin, had bronze-colored hair that reached to the middle of her back and reddish brown eyes.

She was a bit taller than Jin and had a well-proportioned body.

“I’ve got something to talk to you about. Is now an okay time?”

She said and threw a fleeting glance towards Elsa and Beana.

“Uh, sure, it is.”

“Alright, thanks.”

She said and drank a sip of wine from the glass in her hand.

“Your Craft Magic was amazing. I wonder just who did you take lessons from? If you can, please tell me.”

She stared at Jin with her reddish brown eyes and said. Jin met her gaze with a searching look of his own and said,

“From my teacher.”

“And their name is?”

“It’s Adrianna.”

Jin replied, and,

“Adrianna! That’s the same name as a great magus who lived around 1000 yeas ago. Ah, I guess she must be named after her.”

She was the third person who knew the name Adrianna, after Reinhardt and Elsa. And

she also made the same misunderstanding with the name.

“I see, your teacher must’ve been an outstanding person just like that ‘Adrianna’ was.”

Stearina had a little faraway look in her eyes. She then once more looked at Jin and said,

“I happened to overhear that you’re travelling with Reinhardt-sama to Shouro Empire?”

Jin replied with a short yes, to which Stearina said,

“I see, in that case you’ll have to go through Celuroa Kingdom. At that time, if you so desire, I’d like to invite you to my home.”

“Sure, I’ll try asking Reinhardt if we’ve got leeway timewise for it.”

“Well, I’ll be looking forward to it then.”

They then made some polite small talk, after which,

“If I monopolize Jin-kun too much the young lady behind us will surely get upset. And so, see you around.”

Stearina said and walked towards the direction of Reinhardt.

Elsa came close to Jin who was watching Stearina walk away and,

“Jin-kun also thinks the bigger bosom the better?”

She whispered and it caught Jin off-guard and surprised him,

“Wha-, what are you talking about?”

“...You just stared at her.”

Because Jin was an orphan she didn’t have anything like a mother. Perhaps because of that he was weak to, or had some yearning for older women.

Stearina was in her mid-30s, and the calm feel about her only gave him a vague sense of security, however saying that to Elsa was too embarrassing and shameful, and so,

“I was just worried about her going to where Reinhardt was.”,

He told her a white lie. Elsa readily believed him,

“...Rai-nii does like breasts.”

She muttered under her breath.



“Reinhardt-sama’s Schwarz-ritter was terrific!”

Maybe Dominique was drunk from the wine, as her face was a little red while she excitedly talked.

“Haha, you honor me. Your ‘Loiseau’, was it, was well done.”

“Oh, you embarrass me. Though, during that commotion its three plumes happened to break off.”

“That’s unfortunate. I really wanted to see it up close, you see.”

“Oh, you flatter me too much.”

She humbly said, but in fact seemed delighted.

“I would’ve also liked to show it to you and hear your opinions.”

She said seeming regretful, and moved on,

“By the way, Reinhardt-sama, why didn’t your Schwarz Ritter go berserk?”

She asked such a question. As expected of a Magi Craftsman, she was curious about it.

Because afterwards Jin and Reinhardt were going to spread the countermeasures for the temporarily-named [Subordination Rewriting Magic], he explained it to Dominique.

“Since the Magi Device is built to defend against magical surges.”

“Come now, why did you do that?”

Accordingly, Reinhardt explained briefly about how the enemy encountered a while ago, had a golem who used the temporarily-named [Subordination Rewriting Magic].

Hearing it Dominique seemed disbelieving and was greatly surprised. Then,

“Reinhardt-sama, I’d like to talk to you more in depth. If you don’t mind, could we meet after the meal?

She asked in a whispering sort of voice. In response,

“I don’t mind it but...”

As Reinhardt was about to respond,

“My my, in that case I’d certainly also like to have an in-depth talk with you.”

With these words Stearina forced herself into the conversation.

“You’re...”

“Yes, just like Dominique-san, I’m a Magi Craftsman from Celuroa Kingdom, Stearina Gamma.”

She greeted him. To Stearina,

“Oh my, Gamma? My goodness indeed.”,

Reinhardt replied, and,

“Ah, Reinhardt-sama’s familiar with the significance of ‘Gamma’, I see.”

“Yeah. If I recall correctly, every –how many was it– years screenings are held to choose the honorary positions all over the country. Gamma is the third rank, am I correct?”

He said. As expected of a diplomat.

“You’re well-informed. But I also wanted to have a talk with you, so...?”

“Sure, I don’t mind. Well then, shall we meet at my room??”

“Sure, tonight, at eight o’clock. Dominique-san is fine with that too, right?”

“...Yes.”

Dominique agreed with a tone that was a little displeased.



“I wonder just how Beana thinks of me...”

Earl Kuzuma was drinking wine bit-by-bit by himself. Then,

“...Earl-sama.”

The Beana in question appeared.

“Uh!? Be-Beana!?”

Wine spilled over from the glass in the Earl’s hand, and got it on his sleeve.

“Oh, oops.”

“Ah, please don’t move. I’ll dry it.”

Beana said and took out a handkerchief, and quickly wiped dry Earl Kuzuma’s sleeve.

“...I wiped it as fast as I could, but there’s still a small stain.”

Beana said apologetically, and the Earl said to her,

“Ah, don’t worry about. I’ll just change my clothes when I go back.”

However,

“Oh, let me make it clean. [Cleanup].”

The Craft Magic [Cleanup] was magic that removed impurities and such. And because of that magic the stain on Earl’s sleeve completely disappeared.

“Ooh, sorry to bother you.”

“No problem, I’m not very skilled but I can do at least this much.”

Beana said with an awkward smile on her face, and looking at her the Earl made up his mind.

“Beana.”

He put aside the glass and grasped Beana’s hand with both of his,

“Would you marry me?”,

He finally asked.

CHAPTER 33

UNEXPECTED AMBUSH

Evening, 8 o'clock.

Jin, Elsa, Stearina, and Dominique gathered in Reinhardt's room.

The maids serving Reinhardt, Rianna and Mary, and the maid Kate serving Elsa were there too. Jin's maid Laila wasn't there.

Neither Stearina nor Dominique had maids with them. As the room would get too packed.

"I want to hear more about Reinhardt's Schwarz Ritter, please."

Dominique said with tear-choked eyes. Her blue eyes were facing towards Reinhardt.

"Even if you want to hear more, I don't really know what I could talk about..."

"Oh? I've heard rumors though? Were you not the champion in the combat golem sham battles held in Celuroa Kingdom's capital last year?"

That had been Schwarz Ritter's debut.

On that occasion Schwarz Ritter had pushed aside one veteran golem after another, and in the finals he utterly defeated 'Adamas Warrior' who was said to be the number one in Celuroa Kingdom, and won the championship.

"Alas, I wanted to see it too. If only I wasn't away from the capital on official business...!"

While saying so, little by little Dominique inched closer to Reinhardt.

"...That lady, is she all over Rai-nii?"

A small distance away from them Elsa said sullenly. Next to her Jin was slurping fruit

juice,

“As I thought, she’s interested in Reinhardt, don’t you think?”

He said.

“But it’s strange. Usually Rai-nii doesn’t get that close to women.”

When as a reply Elsa said something a little troubling, Jin couldn’t suppress a bitter smile.

Yet another person also approached Reinhardt, Stearina.

“But he’s a noble and moreover an excellent Magi Craftsman, so isn’t it natural for them to be interested in him?”

Jin asked Elsa, who replied,

“But as a Magi Craftsman, Jin-kun is better.”

She completely shot down his reasoning.

“Haha, it’s an honor hearing that from Elsa, but I’m just an ordinary person, so.”

“Lies. If Jin-kun is an ordinary person I’ll lose my faith in this world.”

Elsa said something that could be either speaking well or speaking ill of him.

Jin was at a loss for how to reply so he changed the subject,

“Come to think of it, Beana didn’t come here. I wonder if something happened to her?”

He said, and Elsa began to reminisce about what that occurred in the bathroom not long ago.



After dinner, it was time to bathe to get rid of the dust that smeared everyone’s bodies.

Beana and Elsa went to enter the bath at precisely the same time.

At this time, because even the Royal Secret Maids had been recruited to help with the cleanup, they judged it to be a peaceful time to enter the bath.

“Oh, Beana.”

“Elsa-sama...san.”

As expected, Beana couldn't stop her polite language.

“I said Elsa is fine.”

“Yes, but...Elsa.”

“Mm, that's good.”

Elsa was one step ahead and was already submerged in the bath, and after washing her body Beana also entered.

“Um, do you... have a moment?”

“Mm, what is it?”

Beana looked around the bathroom to again confirm that it was just the two of them, then,

“Elsa-sa...Elsa, what kind of a relationship... do you have with Jin?”

She asked. Elsa tilted her head,

“We're friends.”

And replied. But that answer didn't seem to be the one Beana was after,

“T-then, Elsa... How do you think about Jin?”

“Hm? How is that different from the previous question?”

Elsa answered the question with a question. Beana nervously asked Elsa a second time.

“Do you...like Jin?”

“Mm. I do.”

Elsa replied instantly, while Beana hid her face from her, and,

“I also like...him.”

She opened up her heart. When Elsa heard it,
“As I thought. You like Jin-kun just like me. We’re together.”,
She said and smiled. Seeing Elsa act like that, Beana asked,
“...Does liking mean... Not minding getting married?”



(Getting married...With Jin-kun?)

Elsa looked hard at the Jin next to her.

(Marriage...Living like father and mother do? And then giving birth to, and raising children?...)

While thinking so, she again stared at Jin,

(No, that’s not it.)

Her intuition told her so. Being together with Jin was fun. He knew mysterious things and was reliable. But, she couldn’t imagine raising her children with Jin.

That’s why in the bathroom she didn’t respond to Beana’s question.

“Elsa?”

A voice brought Elsa back to her senses. Her suddenly becoming silent puzzled Jin and turned his attention to her.

“Did something happen between you and Beana? When I mentioned her, you suddenly went silent.”

Jin asked.

“No, it’s nothing. Just, apparently Earl Kuzuma officially proposed to Beana.”

Without hesitation she made an outrageous revelation.

“I-is that so. It was eventual.”

Jin was flustered.

“Jin-kun, what do you think about it?”

Elsa asked him, but some people interrupted them.

The one who spoke was Stearina. Dominique was with her too. As for Reinhardt, he had been set free and could be seen appeasing his thirst with fruit juice.

“Excuse me, Miss. We also have something we’d like to talk to Jin-kun about.”

“Is Jin-kun the one who made that lovely Automata girl?”

She was talking about Reiko. Seems that as she went around fighting to such an extent, whether Jin liked it or not she caught notice.

“Yeah, I am.”

“I thought so! It was amazing, to defeat the golems so easily with a build like hers, I wonder just how was she constructed?”

When she shot the question, for a moment it seemed like there was a glint in Stearina’s eyes.

“That’s a secret, as a Magi Craftsman I can’t reveal my secret techniques just like that.”

As you’d expect, Jin gently refused to answer. Next Dominique who was behind him said,

“I wonder if that girl too was protected from the [Subordination Rewriting Magic] like Schwarz Ritter was?”

Jin guessed that Reinhardt had told her that.

“Yeah, of course.”

He replied. To which Dominique said,

“Aha, I knew it!”

She raised her voice,

“Hey, could I meet that girl, please?”

She brought down her body, looked at Jin with upturned eyes from below, and took his hand as she pleaded.



“S-sure. I’ll go call her here, so please wait.”

He said, shaken and untangled from her hand and left the room for a moment, and after a brief while returned.

When he came back, Reiko was following him.

“This is my Reiko. Reiko, this is Stearina-san, and this is Dominique-san. Introduce yourself.”

Jin said and Reiko pinched the hem of her skirt a little,

“Nice to meet you, I am Reiko.”

She introduced herself.

Seeing that, it was as if Dominique couldn’t stop herself and she clung to Reiko and hugged her tight.

“Squee! So cute! I want this girl!”

She said and rubbed her cheek on Reiko’s. Reiko stayed as she was. However, you could see disgust in her expression.

As you’d expect, Stearing couldn’t just sit back and watch,

“Dominique, what are you doing with other people’s children. Stop it, shape up.”

She said, but Dominique said with a voice much lower than until now,

“That’s right. If I want her, I should just make her my own.”

While saying so, she took a glittering green gemstone from her pocket.

“!? C-could it be, that’s, Elradrite?”

Stearina yelled, and at the same time Dominique cast her Craft Magic.

“[Erase], [Write-in]!”

It was amplified [Subordination Rewriting Magic] from zero distance.

Immediately after that, Reiko’s facial expression disappeared.

CHAPTER 34

UNIFILERS

“He he hee, now Reiko is mine. Ahh, how wonderful!”

Reiko didn’t move.

“Dominique, you...”

Stearina looked shocked as she forced out some words.

“Yes, I am a member of the ‘Unifilers.’”

“Unifilers? That group of religious fanatics!”

Stearina said, but Dominique rebutted.

“We’re not fanatics. We’re reformers and saviours, here to return this world to its pre-Great Magic War days.”

“So that means you were also the one behind the golems’ riot?”

Dominique then grinned widely and said,

“Yes, that’s right. The insides of my bird golem were packed with Elradrite and Magi Crystals. It was simple because the search didn’t go as far as the golems’ interiors. In addition to the red, blue, and yellow ones there was a white one, but I made it operate in the castle’s golem storehouse to a great success.”

Elated with success, Dominique jabbered on. Her smiling face was now overflowing with a sense of superiority.

“Then, that must mean you almost getting attacked was also an act!”

Reinhardt said.

“Yes, that is so. But I’m still grateful for your help, Reinhardt-sama.”

Dominique said nonchalantly. Her grinning face looked villainous.



“If I bring back this strong Reiko instead of the golems gathered in the castle, I’ll surely enter the upper echelon. Now, Reiko, with the exception of Jin and Reinhardt kill everyone here.”

Dominique gave a harsh order.

Hearing that Stearina, Elsa, and Reinhardt went white as a sheet.

If Reiko betrayed them there was no one who could stop her. Except for Jin.

And the Jin in question kept calm. He was looking at Reiko silently standing still.

“Reiko! What are you doing! Kill them all!”

Dominique got impatient with Reiko who didn’t move, and yelled out loud. However, Reiko only replied with a cold voice without blinking an eye,

“Why should I do what someone like you tells me to?”

“Eh?”

You could see from her face that Dominique didn’t understand what Reiko was saying.

“The only one who can give me orders is Father.”

Reiko said and slowly walked near Jin. She then held out a Magi Crystal she took from her breast pocket,

“Father, here is the Magi Recorder.”

She said and handed it over to Jin.

“Good work, Reiko.”

After receiving it Jin gave orders to Reiko while glaring at Dominique. As you’d expect, Jin got angry at Dominique who tried to capture his ‘daughter’ Reiko.

“Reiko, seize Dominique!”

His tone was also strong.

“Yes.”

Reiko gave a reply, and in the blink of an eye went around behind Dominique and wrenched her arm. She also confiscated the Elradrite that was in her hand.

“Eeek! Why! Why?”

It seemed she couldn’t believe that the performing the [Subordination Rewriting Magic] from zero distance using an Elradrite had no effect at all.

“Argh! But how!”

Dominique still raved. Reiko frowned. Then.

“Noisy, aren’t you.”

“Gyaaaaaaaaahh!”

She dislocated Dominique’s shoulder which made a dull sound.

“Excuse me, I seem to have used a bit too much strength. Elsa-san, please cure her.”

“It hurts! It huuurts!”

Dominique yelled, but her body restrained by Reiko didn’t move a bit.

“Rianna, Mary, anyone will do, tie her up.”

“Y-yes!”

At Reinhardt’s command, the Royal Secret Maid Rianna rushed over and tied up Dominique.

“Elsa, heal her for the time being.”

“Mm. [Schmerzmittel].”

Instead of healing it was pain relief, and from that you could tell that Elsa was angry. Even Jin didn’t say anything about it.

“Well then, we’ll take her away.”

“Ah, please do.”

And thus, the culprit of the [Subordination Rewriting Magic] incident was caught, and things seemed to be settled for now.



“Why did you suspect her?”

“When she held my hand the Magic Energy waveform I felt was the same one I felt during the day.”

Currently, Jin and the others were in Reinhardt’s room being interrogated by the authorities, or more precisely giving them the general information about the events.

With Jin were the Minister of Magic Kelhidore and the Minister of Defense Judol.

“What!? Jin-dono, you mean that you are able to read Magical Energy waves?”

The Minister of Magic Kelhidore was surprised by Jin’s answer.

“Eh? Isn’t it an ordinary ability?”

Since the Guild’s Automata was also able to do it, Jin thought it must’ve been common. But it was impossible for Jin to quantify it. It was like the difference between remembering someone’s face and being able to paint a painting of it. Painting was a different skill altogether.

“No no, generally people can’t do it. I see, seems you indeed are a Magi Craftsman whom His Majesty and His Highness have acknowledged.”

Kelhidore said and nodded multiple times, seemingly having come to an understanding.

“Moving on, what kind of a method was that to defend from the [Subordination Rewriting Magic] at zero distance?”

That time, Jin had a feeling that Dominique was planning something, so he went outside for a moment with Reiko who was using [Stealth].

And then after preparing a countermeasure, he pretended to have fetched Reiko and went back to the room with her.

“It was this.”

Jin took the Magi Record he got from Reiko out of his pocket and showed it to Kelhidore.

“Well, please take a look.”

He said and handed it over to Kelhidore. The Minister of Magic alternated between looking it over and examining it with magic, but before long,

“I could immediately understand that this has a Magi Formula for Magi Energy absorption carved on it. But there’s something more? I’ve never seen it before. In addition, there’s yet another thing but too tiny for me to read.”

He gave up. The Minister of Defense next to them was astonished and cast a sidelong glance at Jin.

“The first thing is a Magi Formula for [Record]. The small details are the commands applied to Reiko.”

Jin began to explain it to everyone. It was already known that [Subordination Rewriting Magic] was a magic that wrote commands into the Magi Crystal serving as the Control Core.

And that Magic Energy was made to get absorbed by the Magi Record instead of the Control Core, and this was enough to prevent the magic from achieving its goal, he said.

“Reiko’s Control Core is heavily shielded from Magic Energy, but at zero distance I didn’t want to take the risk so I improvised a thing like this.”

And then it utterly ruined Dominique’s plans, he said, bringing the explanation to an end.

“Hmm, I see. Very enlightening.”

Hearing the Minister of Magic who had compiled together all the magic techniques in the country say that made the Minister of Defense Judol feel shocked from the bottom of their heart.

Because the still young Magi Craftsman Jin in front of them was unfathomably skilled.

“Tomorrow, I want you to give me the precise instructions for that technique.”

Jin readily agreed to Kelhidore’s request.

“Certainly. Something like the [Subordination Rewriting Magic] looks down on both the golems and the Magi Craftsmen who built them. I could never ignore something like that.”

Taking the work someone poured their heart and soul into and treating it as a disposable piece was truly vexing. As a craftsman himself Jin took great offense in it and would never forgive something like that.

Looking at Jin acting like that was Celuroa Kingdom’s Magi Craftsman Stearina with gentle eyes.

“Now then, next I’d like you to hear what I’ve got to say.”

The Minister of Defense Judol began to talk.

“Is there anyone here who don’t know about the ‘Unifilers’ who Dominique talked about?”

Elsa and Jin raised their hands.

“I see, Reinhardt-dono and Stearina-dono already know, huh.”

“That’s correct. To tell you the truth, I received an invitation to the ‘Unifilers’ too.”

“Oh, I can’t just ignore that. What kind of a person did you get it from?”

The Minister of Defense asked her impatiently, wanting a clue even if it’s a small one. However,

“Before I tell you, would you explain to Elsa-san and Jin-kun about the ‘Unifilers’?”,

Stearina said, and Judol sat down, cleared his throat and began to explain.

“Ahem, the group known as ‘Unifilers’ is an underground organization spanning Celuroa Kingdom, Egelia Kingdom, Frantz Kingdom, and Cline Kingdom among others, having its roots in pre-Great Magic War country composed of lesser countries called ‘Dinar Kingdom’. It seems they’re somehow centered in Celuroa Kingdom. That’s

because apparently the ancient capital of Dinar Kingdom used to be around the area where the present-day Celuroa Kingdom's capital is."

Some time ago in a restaurant in Port Rock, when Reinhardt mentioned suspicious activities happening in Celuroa Kingdom, this was what he was talking about.

"At present, you could say the friction between countries is almost nonexistent and there are no territorial disputes as the population dropped sharply due to the Great Magic War. They're a group that wants to expressly unify these countries, and they're not sparing force to do it. I think you could call them a terrorist group."

Causes of cross-national disputes were territorial disputes stemming from resources, economic disparity caused by industry, and in addition religions and such.

In the case of these 'Unifilers', they could be said to be almost a religious organization. That is to say, they recruited fanatical members.

The Minister of Defense Judol's opinion was that even though there was some power struggles and corruption, in general the world was doing well and the minister would like to avoid letting anyone cause disorder.

"I agree."

Reinhardt, who had been silent until now, began to talk.

"Because of the labor shortage caused by the population decrease, each nation has developed golems to compensate. Having that [Subordination Rewriting Magic] dominate them all in an instant would be dreadful and cannot be allowed. The countermeasures must be quickly and thoroughly spread to every country."

"You are absolutely right. Reinhardt-dono, Jin-dono, and Stearina-dono, I would ask for your cooperation."

Judol and Kelhidore bowed, and Jin, Reinhardt, and Stearina all nodded,

"With pleasure."

"I'll cooperate."

"Of course."

They agreed and shook hands.



“You know...About that Jin character, he’s, how should I say it... Astonishing.”

“I concur.”

The Minister of Magic Kelhidore and the Minister of Defense Judol were having a conversation.

“His identity is unknown. However, he’s earned Reinhardt-dono’s trust and has decided to go to Shouro Empire. ...I would’ve had him work for our country even if I had to drag him by the neck, if only...”

“You’d go to that extent?”

“Yes, Judol-dono. But I know it would be impossible for me.”

When Kelhidore, the top magus in Egelia Kingdom said so, Judol couldn’t imagine just who this Magi Craftsman Jin was, and the Minister of Defense felt a vague sense of fear.

“Speaking of that Automata Reiko of his, she could most likely destroy this castle by herself.”

“That strong!?”

“Moreveor, she’s unconditionally pledged to obey Jin. If something happened to him... Just thinking about it scares me. Unless the country decides otherwise, we should refrain from doing anything uncalled for.”

CHAPTER 35

LOTTE'S REMODELING

The next day, Jin was very busy starting from the morning.

“Jin-sama, His Highness Ernest has summoned you.”

Immediately after breakfast summons from the Prince came, and Jin left for the inner royal palace. There was the third Prince Ernest along with lotte.

“Oh, Jin, repair Lotte properly at once!”

The third Prince Ernest said. It seemed like a royal's selfishness, but as Jin treasured Lotte whom he built himself, he laughed and agreed.

“If possible, I'd like it if you made her more durable than before.”

The Prince said to Jin.

“More durable? Not stronger?”

Jin replied with a question.

“Uh huh, make no mistake, her being stronger would be good but before that I don't want her to be broken.”

The prince replied. Jin was pleased with his answer. He then said,

“Understood, I'll give it all I got.”

The prince was greatly delighted.

“You will? In that case, you can use any of the materials in the storehouse! With my permission you'll be let to take them!”

He said and went off, and immediately came back holding some documents in his hands.

“If you show these, the manager will let you in.”

He said and handed the permit to Jin.

“Well then, I wonder what kind of materials there are.”

After obtaining the permit, Jin first borrowed the workshop inside the royal palace. It seemed to be a place that was usually used for the maintenance of knight golems.

He had Lotte wait there, and from there took a cart for transporting materials and pulled it half excitedly to the royal palace’s raw material storehouse. It was in the corner of the inner royal palace grounds. Two soldiers were guarding it, and official was closely managing who was allowed in.

Jin showed the permit he got from the Prince and was immediately let in. The official followed him in just in case to watch out for theft, but Jin had absolutely no intention of doing that. Because at any rate, the materials would be several levels behind ones in Hourai Island.

Even so, materials valuable in their own way were also stored within.

Jin took plenty of aluminium and bronze, within limits. In addition he decided to use a little bit of Adamantite, four Magi Crystals, and a Sand Worm’s leather.

He glanced at the official in charge who was muttering something about how if Jin didn’t have the Prince’s permit. Jin the pushed the materials cart back to the workshop lent by the Prince.

When he got back it wasn’t just Lotte but the Prince too.

“Your Highness!?”

“Ahaha, I wanted to see Jin repair Lotte, so I ended up skipping today’s studies.

It seemed the Prince Ernest was very fond of golems. Or maybe he was just fond of Lotte.

“Is it fine if I watch from here?”

“Sure, go right ahead.”

Jin didn't hold any dislike towards this Prince who genuinely loved golems.

Jin suspended Lotte's Magic Energy and,

"First, let's reinforce the skeleton."

With that explanation he went to work.

"Ah, that's aluminium, isn't it? And that over there is Adamantite."

As might be expected after he said he wanted to make his own golem in the future, the Prince was reasonably informed.

"Yes, first I'll change the steel skeleton to an aluminium one."

Jin said, and began to form a replacement for the skeleton identical in dimensions. Usually the work would be over just like that, but for the Prince's sake he took it easy.

"Oh really, Lotte's skeleton was like this."

"It's close to a human's."

Jin kept working while sometimes giving explanations. After that he coated the surfaces that moved along other surfaces with adamantite.

"Ah, I see. Partially using adamantite to prevent wearing down."

The Prince also was rather quick to understand.

Next was the work on the muscles. Forming fibers of Sand Worms' leather, Jin intertwined them together to make 'Magical Muscles'.

"Amazing, I've never seen this technique before..."

The prince said as he kept staring at Jin working. The current look of the golem with the muscles attached was frankly ominous, but the prince wasn't concerned about it one bit.

Then was the most important bit: inserting the Magi Device. This was just a simple

transplantation of the already existing one, or so the Prince thought, but,

“Your Highness, this structure protects Lotte from the [Subordination Rewriting Magic].”

He said and held out the Magi Device in front of the Prince to show it well to him.

“Hmm, so this is the centralmost part of Lotte. ...Could this container be Mithril? There’s some Magi Formula carved on it too?”

“Yeah, it’s a Magi Formula to protect against outside magic.”

“There’s a Magi Formula like that!?”

The Magi Formula was of the same nature as a [Magic Barrier]. The effective area was the inside of the component instead of an airspace though.

Jin was going to teach the method of protecting against the [Subordination Rewriting Magic] to the Minister of Magic later, he said, and resumed the work.

He put the Magi Device in its proper place in the chest and covered the surroundings well with Magical Muscles.

“Now the first step is over.”

Jin said, and waited for questions. As he thought, a question came from the Prince.

“Hey, if the Magi Device is covered with Mithril, outside magic may not influence it, but doesn’t that also mean Magic Energy can’t get out from the inside?”

A rather good question. Jin found it easy to understand why the Prince asked it and replied,

“Usually that would be the case. But, see these wires coming out from it?”

Jin pointed at the six wires protruding out.

“Mh-hm.”

“These are conducting wires that transmit Magical Energy to all of the body parts. They’re linked to each of the arms and legs, the head, and the torso.”

“Oh, I see. But can’t the magic travel through those wires to the other direction?”

The Prince's understanding was excellent. Jin was glad and began one of his explanations.

"It cannot. These wires are made out of Mithril, and while they let Magical Energy through, they don't let magic through. If you want to know why, then..."

Magic Energy was simple waves of energy, but magic was an energy with substance in a sense, so traveling through this thin wire would be difficult for it, he explained.

It seemed the Prince still only understood about half of the explanation, but at the very least it was conveyed that that's the way things are.

"You're amazing, Jin. You seem to know more than my teacher."

The Prince Ernest looked at Jin with respect. Jin smiled and resumed his work.

"Now, Lotte's restoration, entering the final stage."

With that notification, he removed the exterior of the ex-Lotte, and moved it over to neo-Lotte. While replenishing the missing parts with the bronze he brought.

Seeing Lotte return to her original form in front of him, the Prince was also delighted.

When the transplantation of the exterior was finished, only the steel skeleton was left. Everything else had been recycled.

"Alright, shall we do the final finishing touches?"

Jin said and returned the steel skeleton back to an ingot.

"Woow, how magnificent."

The Prince observed the process of turning the skeleton into an ingot and praised Jin. Even this was just tenth of Jin's normal working speed. Normally the transformation would be over in the blink of an eye.

"Let's separate the zinc. [Smelting]."

He separated the zinc used as an anti-corrosive. What's zinc, the prince muttered, but as expected he was too slow to get an explanation as Jin had already started the work before he heard the Prince.

“[Forming].”

He turned the separated steel into the shape of a disc. That’s right, it was a tray. Jin felt playful and thought that a maid needs a tray. However, this wasn’t enough for Jin.

“[Heat Treatment]. [Hardening]. [Surface Treatment].”

“Wow, it’s a tray.”

Jin’s special-made weapon usable for throwing and as a blunt instrument.

With the leftover steel Jin made a number of knives.

Even so, there was still some left, and after thinking for a while Jin made a mop. A steel mop. As a blunt weapon it was a rather effective thing. At the tip he made a tassel out of the remaining Sand Worm leather.

Finally, he called for the Royal Secret Maid Laila who had abstained from entering the workshop. Even though she had work today too, she knew to maintain a reasonable distance to Jin.

“U-u-u-umm, wha-what are your orders?”

Laila was a little nervous being summoned to a place where the Prince was too. Actually, ‘a little’ doesn’t begin to cover it.

“Huh? If I’m not mistaken, aren’t you the little sister of the magus knight Airi?”

As a reply to the Prince Laila said,

“Yy-y-y-y-yy-es! I am the little sister of Ai-ow!”

She spectacularly bit her tongue. It seemed to be painful.

“I thought so! You look a lot like Airi!”

“I’m not as capable as onee-ch-...my elder sister...”

Laila hung her head in shame. It appeared that her sister had a rather high status in the magi knight troops.

But as Jin had business with Laila,

“Your Highness, could we first finish with this matter?”

He said, politely interrupting the Prince’s talk,

“Ah, sorry! Laila, it seems Jin has something to ask of you.”

He told Laila.

“Y-yes, what is it?”

Jin then spoke of his task.

“Let’s see, I want a complete maid outfit your size. ...Including underwear.”

“Eeh!?”

When Laila turned bright red and looked downwards, Jin thought that she had misunderstood, and

“Listen, not ‘your’ maid outfit. I want a brand new maid outfit ‘your size’. “,

He spelled it out for her. The Prince also backed him up, saying

“Come on, take a look. They’re to dress that golem up. Isn’t that right, Jin?”

“O, oh, so they’re for her, I was sure that, I...”

You were sure that you what. That was on Jin’s mind, but he didn’t say it.

Laila said that she’ll soon be back, left the workshop, and it really didn’t take more than five minutes for her to return.

“E-excuse me, but was that all?”

“Yeah, thanks.”

Jin took the maid outfit she presented to him and thanked her, then first started up lotte.

“Lotte, [Activate].”

“Yes.”

“Eek!”

Laila, who was looking from the side was surprised and let out a little scream. It seemed she wasn't accustomed to and got scared by Lotte who was lying down suddenly getting up.

“Lotte, how's the state of your body?”

Jin asked.

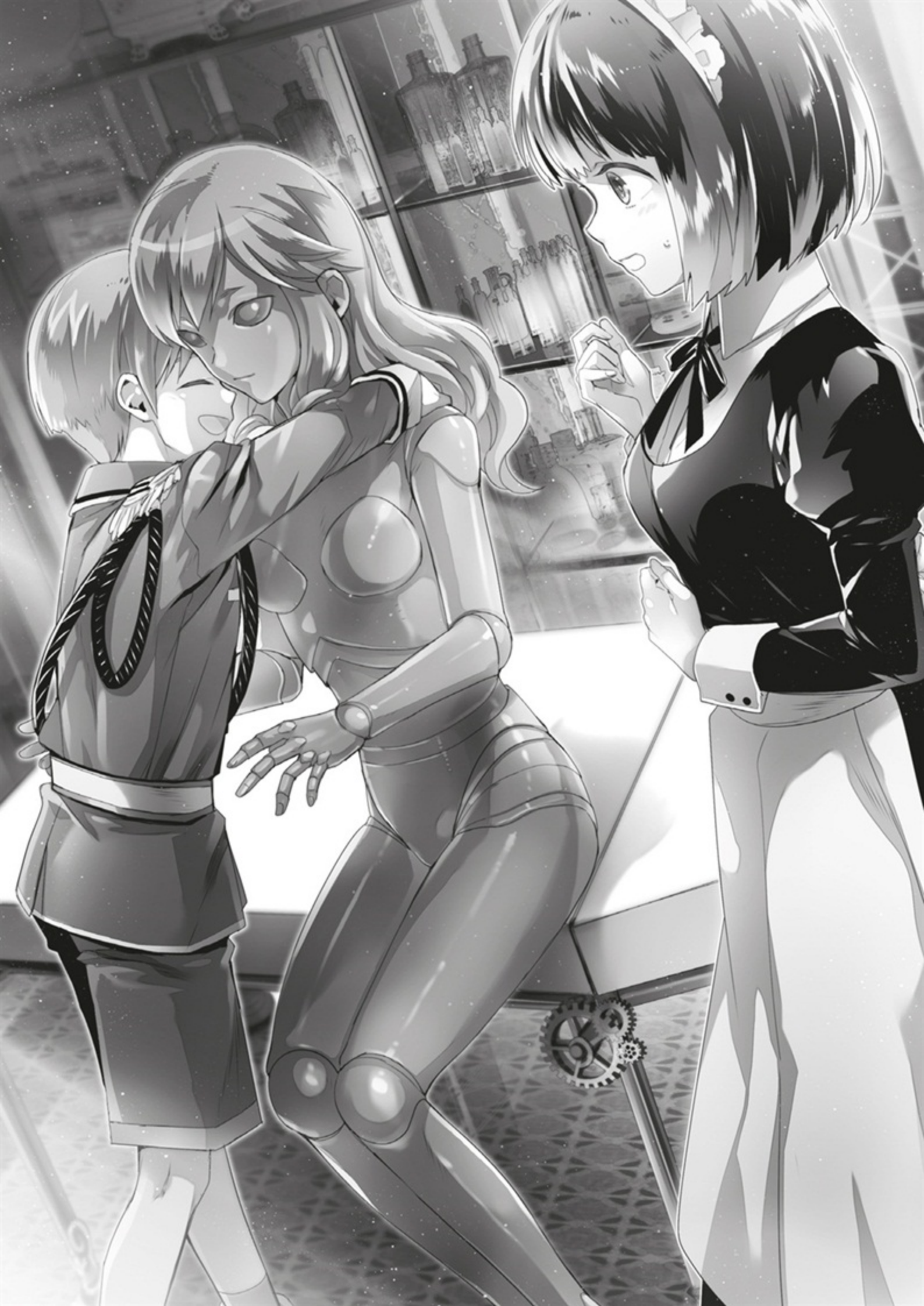
“It is excellent, Father. Thank you very much.”

After replying she turned towards Ernest, kneeled, and

“Your Highness, thank you for your concern.”

she greeted him. The prince rejoiced,

“Lotte, it's good that you're alright now!”



He said and hugged her. He then spoke with surprise,

“Lotte, why is your body warm?”

The one who replied was Jin.

“Your Highness, to tell you the truth, I inserted a Magi Circuit that warms her to a body temperature.”

This was a function that Jin included in almost all of his golems after the manufacture of Reiko.

The purpose was to remove the cold feeling when touching a golem made out of metal.

“Ooh, Jin, like I said, you’re amazing!”

The Prince’s respect grew even more. Jin said to Lotte,

“Lotte, put those clothes on.”

He ordered, and soon Lotte was a fully clothed maid golem.

With a knife on her thigh under her skirt, a tray under one arm and holding a mop in the other, Jin’s imagined battle maid was complete.

CHAPTER 36

EACH ONE, AFTERWARDS 1

The greatly delighted Prince left with Lotte, so Jin took a breather and began tidying up the disorderly workshop.

“Oh, let me help.”

The Royal Secret Maid Laila said and began to he...

“Hey, watch out!”

The remaining materials were scattered on the floor,

“Eek!”

She stumbled on a tool and knocked over a shelf,

“I-I’m so sorry!”

She accidentally kicked away all the ingredients Jin had already put in place.

...Everything returned to being as disorderly as it was before. Jin couldn’t let it pass,

“Please don’t help...”

He said and called for Reiko. She undid her [Stealth] and appeared, and before Jin said anything began cleaning up.

“Aww, I’m...useless, aren’t it?”

Laila said and felt down.

“Well, different people are cut for different things, so.”

Jin had nothing else he could say.



“...Beana’s been avoiding me.”

Earl Kuzuma was whining at Reinhardt who was visiting his room.

“Last night, you proposed to her, right?”

“Mhm. ...Since then, she hasn’t shown me her face.”

He said, gripped the wine bottle in front of him, and drank straight from the bottle.

“Whoa there, don’t overdo it.”

Reinhardt rebuked him, but the Earl didn’t listen and uncorked a second bottle.

“...He’s got a real problem.”

Reinhardt sighed and shook his head as if giving up,

“I’m going for a bit.”

He told Earl Kuzuma and left the room.



“...Woah.”

“We’re finally about halfway done cleaning up, don’t you think?”

The hall where the golem party was held had become a mess of debris and broken golems.

In every direction maids, servants, and magi knights troops were cleaning it up. Several of the Royal Secret Maids were also helping.

The reason why the magi knight troops were participating was that they were securing the recyclable Magi Crystals and such from the broken golems.

Therefore the work was allotted so that the ones who put away the debris were the male servants, maids cleaned up after that, and finally the magi knights gathered everything that looked usable or expensive from among the debris.

“Ah, looks like this can be used.”

One of the Magi Knights picked up a red Magi Crystal.

“There’s one over here too.”

This time it was a green Magi Crystal.

The work was uninteresting, so without a treasure hunt like this it seemed they wouldn’t have been able to go on.

During it,

“Ooh, this one’s a fragment of a crystal golem.”

There was a Magi Crystal embedded in transparent crystal. It was no doubt a part of Ceres.

“Oh my, thank you for finding it.”

“Eh?”

Turning to look towards the voice, there stood Stearina.

“I’ll have that.”

With those words she left.



“They were suppressed faster than I expected.”

“Yes, looks like there was an unexpectedly strong golem.”

“Nevertheless, we surely achieved our objective?”

“Yes. First of all, the amplification limit of Elradrite. It’s about 10,000 times. There’s no way to supply Magic Energy above that. In addition, the Elradrite that functioned as the final amplifier happened to overload and break apart.”

“Hmm, so that means for the second series 400-times amplification is adequate.”

“That is so.”

“And second?”

“Yes. We very clearly secured the detailed information of the golems of Egelia Kingdom and nations friendly to it. Analysis is underway.”

“Hmm, so this means that our noble goal is one step closer.”

“That is so. Let alone one step, I would say we’ve advanced two or three steps.”

“Most excellent.”

“Please leave the rest to me. Oh, and one more thing, there’s some interesting news.”

“What’s that?”

“There’s talk that the Magi Craftsman called Jin is rather good.”

“Oh, very interesting. And his affiliation?”

“The same as Shouro Empire’s Magi Craftsman Reinhart Randol’s, or something like that.”

“Reinhardt, huh. He’s also a talented person we want. Alright, keep on gathering information.

“Very well.”



“ ... ”

Beana was by herself, sitting next to a window gazing out. Although outside it was already dark, with the planted trees almost nothing could’ve been seen anyway.

“...Sigh.”

She then let out a single sigh. She was like that for a while until she suddenly looked over her shoulder, and,

“Hey, Lisa.”

She called out for the Royal Secret Maid, Lisa, who was behind her.

“Yes, what would you like?”

“I’d like someone to talk with for a bit, or rather maybe some consultation.”

In the end, the troubled Beana decided to consult with a girl of her age.

“Consultation, is it? Whenever you’re ready.”

“Thanks. ...Look, what do you think about marriage between a commoner and an Earl?”

“Huh?”

Beana was honest and told her how she was wondering whether or not to accept the proposal from Earl Kuzuma.

“Let’s see, if it was me I would gladly accept the proposal.”

“Really?”

“Yes. Becoming a countess, isn’t that marrying up? It’s status I couldn’t dream of achieving otherwise!”

It seems that Lisa’s personality was like that.

“...Comparing that to a Magi Craftsman?”

“That’s not even worthy of comparison. I won’t say being a Magi Craftsman is bad, but it’s completely different position. An Earl is a noble. A noble!”

“...I guess.”

It appears that I chose the wrong conversation partner, Beana realized and again turned her eyes towards the darkness outside the window.



“Young lady, the most important thing is that this time too you were unhurt.”

The nanny Mine spoke earnestly while having Elsa change clothes.

“That’s why I told you before that going on a trip would have many dangers.”

But Elsa shook her head at Mine's words,

"Mm-hm. There may be some dangerous things, but there's many more fun things."

"Young lady..."

"Hey, Mine, what is 'marriage' like?"

"Excuse me?"

Mine couldn't understand the meaning of the question and was at loss for words.

"Earl Kuzuma proposed to Beana."

But after Elsa continued Mine understood,

"Let's see, if you want my personal opinion... it's not a good thing."

"Is, that so?"

Elsa turned around in surprise after the unexpected answer. Mine also turned around as Elsa had finished changing to her nightwear.

"...Yes. Or rather than that, men...can't be trusted. You shouldn't do that."

"Eh?"

Mine's bombshell statement again surprised Elsa.

"Young lady's soon going to be 17 and a marriageable age for the general public, but men are still unknown to you. Would you like me to tell you a little about them?"

"...Mm."

When Elsa nodded,

"The animals called men think of girls as child-bearing machines. If not that, then outlets for their lust."

Elsa silently listened at the suddenly rushing harsh words.

"When I was... fifteen, I was serving as a maid in a certain noble's estate. My parents were somewhat influential traders, but learning manners through working as a maid

for several years was popular back then. ”

She stopped talking for a moment, then continued.

“...In that noble’s estate was a guest. A noble from outside a country, a military personnel.”

“Someone like father.”

Elsa muttered, as her father was a viscount and one of the army commanders of Shouro Empire’s garrisons outside the country.

When Mine heard that she frowned a little, but soon kept going as if nothing happened.

“...That person worked as the battallion commander of the nation’s armed forces even though he was young; me and another older maid had been arranged to assist him. He stayed for about three months. During that time, that person and me had an adult relationship.”

“An adult relationship?”

Elsa who didn’t understand the euphemistic expression parroted the words back at Mine as a question. Mine smiled,

“Acting like a married couple without being married, basically.”

Whether she understood that or not, Elsa still told her to continue.

“I was told that person had a wife back in his country. He also already had two sons. While knowing that, I ended up in such a relationship with him.”

Elsa listened quietly. It was the first time Mine had spoken of her past like this.

“You didn’t, get married?”

It wasn’t unusual for a noble to have a second wife or a mistress. Actually, Earl Guarana had told that to Elsa too.

“It wouldn’t have been appropriate for me to be anything more than a mistress to him. He didn’t talk about such a thing even once.”

She said and continued after a single sigh.

“Before long the length of his stay was over, and that person returned to his country. But at that time, inside me, a new life had begun.”

“You mean...a baby?”

Elsa asked with a slightly blushing face.

“Yes. When the time came I gave birth to that baby. She was a lovely girl.”

“A girl...”

“I planned to raise her by myself. There was enough room for her in my parents’ house. But for some reason that man knew and came back and said he’ll adopt the child. For some reason, his wife had a weak constitution and could no longer bear children or something like that. And then, for that man the girl would only be a tool to marry into other influential nobles’ families.

“...”

“I refused. But a commoner is no match for a noble, and in the end the girl ended up being taken from me.”

“...That’s terrible.”

“Yes, it’s terrible. But these days I can serve young lady like this, so I’m not that unhappy.”

“What happened, to that girl?”

Elsa looked concerned.

“According to what I’ve heard, she wasn’t treated any different from the children his wife brought into the world, and they grew up healthy together.”

“...That’s good.”

“Yes, that’s my only consolation.”

“Aren’t you lonely?”

When she asked that Mine smiled gently at her,

“No, because now I’ve got young lady.”

She said and gently grasped Elsa's hand. Elsa also tenderly squeezed her hand back.

CHAPTER 37

EACH ONE, AFTERWARDS 2

The night passed, and it was now the following morning.

Beana was still worrying. More precisely, without sleeping all night before she noticed morning had come.

The Royal Secret Maid Lisa who was serving Beana sitting on a chair leaning against the backrest and sleeping.

“...Morning, huh.”

Beana muttered softly, left the room to wash her face.

The washroom was nearby in the hallway. There there was an artesian well from which water always flowed out.

Being March in the spring, the water was neither cold nor warm, a suitable temperature for her to rinse her mouth and wash her face. Then she realized she forgot to bring a towel.

But just then, from beside her someone presented her with a new towel.

“...Thanks.”

Must’ve been some maid, Beana thought, and took the towel without checking who it was, then she dried her face. Only after she opened her eyes did she realize it was Jin.

“...Jin.”

“Good morning, Beana.”

“G-good morning.”

For some reason it was a bit awkward. Beana then waited for Jin to rinse his mouth and wash his face.

“Jin.”

“What’s wrong, your eyes are all red. Did you not sleep well?”

After being asked so Beana hesitated for a moment, then,

“...Earl Kuzuma, he proposed to me.”

She confessed. To that, Jin replied,

“Oh, right.”

And to his reply, Beana said,

“Jin, you knew?”

“Yeah, I heard it from Elsa last night.”

“From Elsa, I see.”

Elsa looked downwards and looked like she was about to talk but then closed her mouth again, until finally after repeating that process multiple times,

“Hey, Jin...what do you think?”

After great pains she managed to voice the question.

“About Earl Kuzuma’s proposal, huh... I...congratulate you.”

“Eh...”

“Kuzuma’s a good person. He isn’t unjust and doesn’t discriminate, and the people under his rule also think so. Looking at his employees too, there’s no one odd. If you were to marry him, no one would look down on you, I think.”

“...”

“Even the Prince asked you to be his partner with such enthusiasm. I’m sure that Kuzuma can bring you happiness.”

“Jin...”

From his words, she could sense Jin’s feelings towards Beana. However, it wasn’t romantic love. It was familial love, moreover like towards a little sister.

She completely understood it. She was made to understand it.

“H-hey, Beana?”

For a moment she looked down, but when she raised her head she was smiling. Then,

“Thanks, Jin. I’ve come to my decision. I’ll accept the Earl’s proposal.”

She said. And then, she suddenly hugged Jin,

“Jin, I like you.”

She said only that and separated from him, then,

“Thanks for everything until now. From now on, let’s keep on being good friends.”

She said that and ran off.

Jin didn’t really know what to think of Beana’s behavior just now, and was left behind dumbfounded.



Mine was pondering.

Mine knew that Elsa –of whom she had thought “she’s a child, just a child”– had, before she knew it, grown to the verge of adulthood; now she was wondering what to do.

She had obscured the truth from Elsa by saying ‘had an adult relationship’, while in fact it had been a more overbearing, one-sided development. She had been forced against her will. One time after the other.

Remembering that, her mistrust of nobles and mistrust of men gained strength.

And now what to do with Elsa after this.

She was born a noble’s daughter, and furthermore she had two elder brothers so her fate was to sooner or later be married into another family.

If her partner was a good person and loved Elsa it would be fine, but.

“That person...”

She unconsciously spoke out loud.

“...Doesn’t think of Elsa as just a tool.”



“Now then, Reinhardt-dono, Jin-dono, go ahead.”

Jin and Reinhardt were explaining the countermeasures against [Subordination Rewriting Magic] to the Minister of Magic Kelhidore and other officials from the magic department.

First Reinhardt explained the way of sheltering the Magi Device with materials that resist letting Magic Energy through. For now the carapace of an Armor turtle was effective.

“Oh, I see, if you think about the materials a little it is simple to do.”

Materials that dampened Magic Energy could be put to use as it is, however it just required a bit of time for remodeling. In addition, as the dimensions of mass-produced Magi Device models’ cases were known, mass producing the dampeners would also be feasible.

Next was Jin’s explanation.

“With the intention of not letting Magic Energy inside, I developed this Shield Case.”

Jin said, and took out the sample he prepared and placed it on the table.

“The surroundings are made out of Mithril that easily lets Magic Energy diffuse through it. On the contrary, that means it doesn’t easily emit the Magic Energy it has absorbed.”

“Indeed, reasonable.”

“Leaving it like that, since something unexpected could happen if it was to saturate, so a Magi Formula that, along with converting magic to Magic Energy, releases Magic Energy into the surrounding air has been carved on it.”

“Oooh.”

The Minister of Magic Kelhidore made an approving sound.

“Finally as insurance, having a Magi Tool that naturally absorbs released magic it should be good.”

Jin showed the Magi Recorder and brought the explanation to an end, and Kelhidore gave a round of applause.

“Nay, it’s excellent work, Jin-dono. Your method is reliable but expensive and time-consuming. Reinhardt-dono’s method is simple to do and also has a high performance. How about using Jin-dono’s technique for important and high-powered battle golems, and Reinhardt-s technique for the rest of them?”

No one objected to Kelhidore’s proposal.



It took until nearly dusk for Jin and Reinhardt to be released from the task of guiding the remodeling of the golems.

“Jin, how about we go wash off the sweat from the work?”

Reinhardt said and invited Jin to bathe. Jin who loved bathing agreed without a second thought. They headed straight to the bathroom.

The dressing room always had towels at the ready, and maids came to take the stripped clothing and wash them, then dry them using magic.

“Aah, my fatigue just disappears.”

For almost a whole day, just continuously offering guidance was enough to tire them.

“Indeed. However, I preferred your bath in Kunlun Island.”

Reinhardt said that the hot spring whose water came from underground instead of a hot bath whose water was heated felt better. Jin agreed. The feel of the water was different.

“It’s good if Beana finds happiness.”

Reinhardt muttered a few words while immersed in the hot water.

“You heard?”

“Uh-huh, at noon from Lewis.”

Lewis was Earl Kuzuma’s name.

“Surely if it’s Earl Kuzuma he can make Beana happy. I hope so.”

“I think so too.”

Reinhardt then kept talking.

“Tomorrow’s Elsa’s birthday though.”

“Eh? That’s awfully sudden.”

Jin was surprised as Reinhardt said so. Certainly, some time ago in Elias Kingdom’s capital Borgia it was said that her birthday was coming soon, so he had a hunch.

“Sorry. Telling you about it got delayed under the confusion of the golem party and other complications.”

“There’s that gem you bought for her that one time and it should be enough, but...”

Jin thought. Then, he remembered about the object that Elsa was interested in which looked like a pretty dagger.

CHAPTER 38

JIN, BEANA, THE EARL

“E-Earl, I may be no good at anything, but please take care of me.”

Beana clearly told about her acceptance of Earl Kuzuma’s proposal to him.

After she talked with Jin in the morning, she didn’t quite head straight to the Earl’s room, and noon had come.

“I, I see, thank you. Please take care of me too.”

The Earl replied with an unwell look on his face. When Beana saw it, she worriedly asked,

“Umm, Earl? Are you feeling ill by any chance?”

“No, I’m just a bit hung over.”

The Earl replied with a bitter smile. As you’d expect he couldn’t say he had gotten himself smashed as a distraction from Beana being uncertain about her response.

“So even the Earl has a weakness like that. Here I was thinking that you were all proper.”

Beana said, and the Earl replied,

“I lost my parents early and succeeded the house, so my every day was filled with just work and work, and as a result I’m especially awkward regards to relations with women.”

When Beana heard that she unintentionally chuckled a bit,

“It would be a problem if you were too suave. Earl, please take care of me for the many years to come.”

She once more bowed her head.

“Hey, Beana, even though the official announcement of the betrothal and such will wait until we return to Blue Land, could you, umm... Call me ‘Lewis’ instead of ‘Earl’?”

Earl Kuzuma asked with a red face. When he asked, Beana's face also reddened and,

"Y-yes. L- Lewis-sama."

Both the sayer and the sayee turned bright red.





After Jin had stepped out of the bath.

While thinking about Beana, Elsa's present, and the Unifilers without an end, there was a knock on his door.

"Come in."

Reiko responded faster than the Royal Secret Maid Laila who was serving Jin, and opened the door. Behind it stood Reinhardt.

"Reinhardt-san has come to see you."

At Reiko's words Jin got up from his chair and went to greet Reinhardt at the door.

"Reinhardt, what's the matter? Come on in for now."

Jin said and invited Reinhardt in.

He had spoken with Earl Kuzuma until now, Reinhardt prefaced his news and said,

"Lewis and Beana have gotten engaged, and I came to tell you about it."

Jin told Reinhardt to sit down at any rate, and the Royal Secret Maid Laila began to brew tea for them. Reiko was on guard against threats.

"After this, the two of them will surely formally announce their engagement when they return to Blue Land. And this, umm, excuse me for my language, him accepting a plebeian as his first wife would be rather troublesome, so he's asked the nobles who are his friends to treat her as if she was an adopted daughter. That's about it."

He added one thing to another. When Jin heard it, he thought it was like a historical play he saw in the past about a wedding between a commoner and a samurai.

Reinhardt changed his seating posture and said,

"Hey, Jin. There's something I've been meaning to ask you."

"Hm? What is it?"

"How do you think about so-called 'love'?"

When asked, Jin thought more deeply about something he had thought of earlier.

Even Jin wasn't made out of stone, and much like anyone else he had an interest in women. His past life was good, he thought, as he reminisced of a girl.

It was around the time he was in senior high school. As expected, she was someone who went to the same high school, but was two grades ahead of Jin.

During the day she worked part-time, which was much similar to Jin. He had heard her family was fatherless, and moreover she had three little brothers, so it must've been quite difficult for her.

When he was on his second year, Jin indirectly confessed to her, and that girl also accepted his confession so they began to go out.

However, as they both had to go to high school they weren't able to have a date-like date, and at most they could talk a little on the way to class or walk to the train station together when going home.

Even on holidays one had to help with the orphanage and the other help with the little brothers, and nothing like a date happened. One year passed like that.

Then the day of graduation came.

She had been proposed to by the manager of the company she had previously worked part-time in, and she honestly told Jin about it. Along with the fact that she was thinking about accepting the proposal as it was a good prospect.

Furthermore, she said that she had enjoyed the one year with Jin.

Jin listened without being able to say anything. Still being a student, he wasn't a financial match for the other party. Then there was her livelihood to think about. Just saying he liked her couldn't stop her.

The words "don't go" also couldn't get out of his mouth, and instead of them,

"Congratulations."

He said. On that note things between him and her ended.

After that Jin graduated and got a job at a company with some bad reputation but good wages, and his every day passed without a hint of romance...And then he fell into an electric furnace.

“Livelihood, I guess.”

Jin replied with a single word.

“I see, love is livelihood. I could say it’s an answer suiting you, but I could also say it’s very much something an old person would think.”

Reinhardt said.

“Anyway.”

Jin once more said just a single word.

“Well, certainly, currently the foundation of your life is nonexistent. Kunlun Island is, how should I say this, like a different world.”

“It is, isn’t it.”

“Thinking of it like that, your visiting of many nations is meaningful. If you found a country that suited you and settled there that would be good. Although it that country was our Shouro Empire that would be the best.”

Jin said and smiled, but Jin wasn’t in the mood for smiling.

“What’s wrong? Did I rub you the wrong way?”

“Not really.”

Jin still replied with just a single word.

“Well, relationships between people aren’t straightforward. Not to mention relationships between men and women.”

Reinhardt said, and while Jin who had began brooding stayed like that, he left the room.

In the end, Laila’s tea didn’t make it in time.



“Ear- ...Lewis-sama, is your headache better yet?”

Beana was in Earl Kuzuma’s room.

“Oh, thanks to you it’s much better.”

“I-I’m glad to hear that.”

Earl Kuzuma then spoke plainly and without delay.

“Hey, Beana, how do you feel about Jin?”

“Eh...”

“I have no intention of blaming you if you like Jin. I only want to know.”

The Earl looked straight at Beana and asked, and she gave an honest reply.

“I liked him.”

“I thought so.”

But in no time Beana continued,

“However, thinking about it now, I only one-sidedly relied on him, that was how I felt.”

Beana said, gave a single sigh, and continued,

“It may’ve been just a childish sentiment.”

She then raised her eyes towards the Earl,

“Ear-... Lewis-sama, ever since, umm, the time you rescued me from Earl Guarana I was in love with you. But our social statuses differed and I gave up hope.”

She again cast her eyes down.

“It was cowardly, and it was dishonest. But, now after thinking the reply to Lewis-sama through properly that’s over. I mean it. If this makes you say you detest someone like me then so be it, but...”

Earl Kuzuma then embraced Beana,

“It’s fine now. I can understand your feelings.”

“Louis, sama...”

For a while Earl Kuzuma kept hugging Beana close, but eventually released her from his arms,

“You can already retire to your room for the night.”

He said affectionately.

CHAPTER 39

DAGGER AND BROOCH

After Reinhardt had left, Jin took a break from his thoughts and made his way to the place where the debris was stored. He thought he needed a change of pace, and also had to make the birthday present for Elsa.

He intended to make use of the serviceable fragments of the broken golems as material.

By all rights all the materials from the broken golems ought to have been collected and recycled by now, but collecting for example Mithril used as plating would take a lot of time compared to the tiny amount that could be gathered by doing it, and it would've been impractical. Therefore there was a mountain of stored debris.

But an individual could ignore the efficiency factor. And so, Jin went rummaging through the debris. Of course, he gave notice to the manager of the debris pile.

"Hmm, most of the metal is bronze, huh."

That was obvious, as the valuable materials had been collected by the mobilized magi knights and magi.

Even so, seek and ye shall find,

"Oh, this bronze is coated with Mithril."

"Yes! It's a piece of Mithril!"

Little by little, he gathered up Mithril.

However, it wasn't quite enough to make a blade.

"Oh my, Jin-kun, what are you up to?"

Jin raised his head to look at the speaker, and there stood Celuroa Kingdom's Magi Craftsman Stearina.

"Oh, Stearina-san."

“Material-hunting?”

“Yeah, you could say so.”

“But why at this hour?”

Stearina’s question was natural. The time was past five, and it was starting to get darker.

“Ah, there’s something I want to make that’s a little urgent.”

Jin responded.

“Hmm, what a problem.”

Stearina said, and continued,

“You’re a Magi Craftsman, right? Why don’t you just turn it all into a single lump and separate the components?”

She said.

“I-I see...I could be doing that, huh.”

Jin appreciated the help. That method was certainly reliable.

Stearina looked at Jin and,

“...As if. Who could do such-”

She began to talk, but,

“[Fusion]!”

At full throttle, Jin fused the pile of debris together in one go right in front of her.

“Eh?”

“[Extraction], copper. [Extraction], iron. [Extraction], tin. [Extraction], zinc. [Extraction], Mithril. [Extraction], aluminium...”

“Eeh? Eeeeh?”

Stearina couldn’t understand what was going on as in front of her eyes lumps of

copper, iron, zinc, tin, and then Mithril etc. were made.

“...Woah.”

As you'd expect, Jin looked a little worn out. All the debris in front of them must've weighed ten-odd tons. Melding it all together at once with [Fusion] and taking the ingredients out with [Extraction] one by one. Finishing all that in a short period of time, getting tired was natural.

“Y-y-y-you, do you even know what you've done?”

“Yes?”

Why are you surprised when I only did what you said, Jin thought and stared puzzledly at Stearina.

“You did in a moment what would take days for a normal Magi Craftsman to do...”

“Eh?”

Jin, who had taken seriously Stearina's joke, wondered if he just blew it but now was too late to worry. However, then a good idea occurred to him.

“Excuse me, Stearina-san?”

Jin timidly asked her.

“...What, Jin-kun?”

Stearina replied while stepping back from him. She must've thought he was going to silence her.

“I used this thing.”

Jin displayed the object he had in his hand.

It was a gemstone. It glittered light in the evening light.

“...Could that be Elradrite?”

“Yeah. See, when Dominique was caught, I forgot that I had seized this from her. I planned to hand this over to Kelhidore-san after this, but it should be okay to use it once, right?”

He said and showed a smile. The truth was that he had an Elradrite but didn't use it. But Stearina who didn't know that was relieved.

"Whaat, so that's how. You scared me. I thought Jin-kun was a monster or something, being able to do that."

Hearing that made a cold sweat run down Jin's back. At the same time, he thought he really needed to get a piece of Elradrite. Of course, for the purpose of hiding his strength.

"Oh well, I don't think anyone will complain about returning it late after making the debris usable like this. Rather, I think they'll be happy."

Stearina completely bought that the stunt just now was done using the Elradrite's ability.

"So, the thing you wanted to make, what is it?"

She returned to her first question.

"A dagger. Something a woman would use."

Jin replied honestly. The woman in front of him was a capable Magi Craftsman, so maybe she'd be able to give him advice.

"Hmm, did someone ask you for one? Ah, perhaps that platinum blonde miss?"

Jin guessed that by platinum blonde miss she was referring to Elsa and said,

"No, I wasn't asked to make one but some time ago she seemed interested in a dagger so."

Jin said, and for some reason Stearina wrinkled her well-shaped eyebrows and frowned.

"...Could you be planning to make that a gift?"

She asked. It was precisely that, and Jin replied frankly,

"Yes. The truth is, I just heard that tomorrow is her birthday, so."

Stearina just took a long hard look at Jin and then sighed,

“Well aren’t you an idiot.”

She criticized Jin.

“It seems you only focus on being a Magi Craftsman and don’t know anything about how to handle women, right?”

“...”

Jin didn’t know how to reply so for now he kept quiet.

“Listen, gifting an edged tool expresses the intent that ‘I want to cut off relations with you’. A ring or a necklace means ‘I want to be bound to you’. Ah, but bound doesn’t mean actually bound, got it?”

“Uh, huh.”

“Gifting clothes means ‘I want to undress you’, and inviting for a meal means ‘I want to eat you’.”

Somehow the topic seemed to be rapidly entering perilous territory so Jin said,

“I-I got it. You want to say that a dagger isn’t an appropriate birthday present, right?”

“Yeah. Unless you have an inseparable bond, in other words a blood relative gifting one for self-defense is acceptable.”

When told so, Jin became even more troubled.

“In that case, it should be fine if the dagger’s gifted by Reinhardt, and then some kind of an accessory would surely be...”

Thinking it through that far,

“Well then, what would a brooch mean?”

He tried asking Stearina. She replied,

“That would be ‘I want to live inside your heart.’”

That should be fairly decent, Jin thought, and decided to make a brooch.

“Jin-kun, it’s about dinnertime.”

Elsa then arrived to where they were. It seems she got worried and searched for Jin when he wasn’t in his room even though it was dinnertime.

“Ah, so it’s that late already. ...Stearina-san, thanks for everything.”

“Oh, no problem, anything for Jin-kun.”

She said and saw Elsa and Jin off. Jin was empty-handed, seemingly intending to come back later to pick the things up.

“...Youth is nice, isn’t it.”

It looked like the two didn’t hear her muttering. However, it was clearly audible to Reiko, who was invisibly following Jin while under [Stealth].

“Jin-kun, what were you doing?”

It was a natural question for Elsa, but there was no way Jin could answer honestly,

“Let’s see, I thought there might be something useful, so I went searching.”

“Mine always says thing shouldn’t be wasted. Jin-kun’s excellent.”

Jin received praise in a strange manner.

CHAPTER 40

MISUNDERSTANDING

After dinner, Jin once more went to the place where the debris was stored.

When he told the manager he had separated the materials to their constituent parts, the manager was astonished and with great haste went apparently to tell it to their superiors, as soon the Minister of Magic Kelhidore and another important-looking noble came.

“Oh, you must be Jin-dono. I heard from the one who’s in charge of this place that you separated these?”

The noble whose name Jin didn’t know said to him. The noble looked about 40 years old, his hair was thinning and in a swept-back style, he was a skinny and a tall person. He faced Jin and,

“I am this country’s Minister of Domestic Affairs, my name is William.”

He introduced himself.

“Hm, alright. I have to first explain to minister Kelhidore something about this matter.”

“What is it?”

Jin then took the Elradrite out of his pocket,

“This is the Elradrite I picked up from Dominique. To tell you the truth, I was just helped by this thing with the whole separating incident.”

Thereupon the two’s slightly frowning faces right away returned to normal.

“I see, so this stunt was carried out with Craft Magic amplified with an Elradrite.”

It looked like they misunderstood the meaning of Jin’s words quite well.

“So, I’ll return this.”

Jin said and handed the Elradrite over to Kelhidore.

“Hmm, I’ll certainly have it. It’s a little late, but looking at this mountain of separated materials I don’t see a problem, do you, Minister?”

“Not at all. Instead of wasting the materials they can be recycled. With this the Minister of Finances should be happy too. Jin-dono, you were after some materials, right?”

The Minister of Domestic Affairs asked about Jin’s motive. Jin honestly told the minister that he needed Mithril and a bit of some other materials.

“Hmm, if that’s the case then take anything you need from here. Because after this, I’ll have the materials carried out.”

The minister gave his permission so Jin went to gathering the materials with high spirits.

Mithril. Enough to make the dagger and the brooch.

Some aluminum, copper, zinc, and tin.

Splinters of variously colored Magi Crystals.

If a Magi Crystal broke into pieces it became worthless. Because even if repaired using the Craft Magic [Fusion] it wouldn’t produce any Magic Energy.

You can think of them as magnets. Magnets have north pole and a south pole, and opposites attract each other.

Magi Crystals also emit lines of Magic Energy much like lines of magnetic force, but the crystals don’t emit a lot of Magic Energy in itself. That’s why if you gather a lot of pieces of broken Magi Crystals, the orientation of the lines of Magic Energy become random and they interfere with and cancel each other out, and the resulting Magic Energy output becomes weak.

(This doesn’t happen with magnets).

“Hmm, are you fine with just that? If there’s anything more you need please tell me.

His Highness Prince Ernest also told me to accommodate for your wishes, you see.”

“Eh. His Highness did?”

Seems he was pleased with Lotte’s matter.

“Thank you very much. But this much should be enough.”

“Is that so. Then I’ll have the remaining materials carried out.”

“Alright, thank you very much.”

Jin gave his thanks and left the scene. The materials were heavy, but when he had gone out of sight of the two ministers he had Reiko dispel her [Stealth] and take over for Jin in carrying them.

“Alright then.”

After piling up the materials in his own room, when he was about to finally begin manufacture, there was a knock on the door.

“Yes, who is it?”

Instead of Jin, Reiko went to open the door and,

“Good evening, is Jin-kun around?”

It was Stearina.

“Ah, Stearina-san.”

Jin also got up and greeted her.

“Is now a good time?”

“Yeah, go ahead.”

“Well then, I’ll take a bit of your time.”

After getting his permission Stearina stepped in the room.

No one saw the person watching this all...No, except for Reiko, no one noticed. And

Reiko judged it wasn't particularly worthy of reporting about.

If she reported every little thing every day to Jin, she'd just be a bother to him. Therefore, there was no reason she should report about his friend Elsa being on the other side of the hallway.

Even with Elsa there, as Jin had things to do he'd surely just go back to his room. Reiko came to that conclusion.



"That's...Stearina, san?"

Elsa had something she wanted to ask Jin about, so she went to the hallway so as to visit Jin, but precisely then she happened to see Stearina enter Jin's room.

"Jin, kun. ...And Stearina-san?"

Having been beaten to it, although Elsa went back to her room for a moment, she felt vague sadness in her chest so she again went out to the hallway.

She then snuck up to Jin's room without making a sound, and,

(I, shouldn't be, doing, this, but...)

After settling her inner conflict she tried pressing her ear against the door.

"...Oh my, I didn't think it to be your first time doing this."

"Please don't flatter me."

"It's not flattery. You're really amazing, Jin-kun. You've beat me."

"...!"

Elsa reflexively stepped back.

(What, was that conversation?)

Then once again, she nervously brought her ear near the door.

“Amazing, having it get this hard, I’ve never done something like this either.”

“It’s different from usual?”

“Jin-kun, you’re just as good as I anticipated. No matter which girl it is, they’ll be pleased with this.”

“Haha, wouldn’t that be nice.”

“I can guarantee it.”

Somehow Elsa couldn’t listen any longer.

Elsa left from there as if running away, returned to her room, and threw herself down on top of the bed.

“Young lady? Is something wrong?”

Mine asked worriedly, but Elsa didn’t answer and just lay there face-down.



“Usually, you can’t get Mithril this hard though?”

Stearina seemed surprised and said to Jin.

“Ah, it’s because I mixed a little bit of copper to it.

He replied.

“Eh? Really?”

“Yeah. Mixing a bit of copper to the metal makes it harder.”

If the so-called 925 Sterling Silver was heated to about 500 degrees Celsius, then kept at 250 degrees for a while to harden it, then left to cool on its own and it would become even harder. In addition, it becomes harder to tarnish than pure silver.

Jin knew this as he had learned the basics of metals' properties in his rookie training, but it seemed it wasn't yet known in this world. Or rather, even if alloys were made, it looked like the mixtrue's ratios weren't closely controlled.

"And then you apply [Hardening], and [Surface Treatment]. That's, how should I say this, rather amazing."

The finished dagger was shining with a silver color, its length about 40 centimeters. It was thin and light. Furthermore, as Jin went through the finishing touches with all of his effort, it was in every aspect stronger than a steel sword.

"But this shape, size, and lightness. It seems easy to use even for a girl. "

"If that's so, then good. Next is the scabbard and the grip."

Jin said, took some aluminium and used [Forming].

He made it a precise fit for the size of the blade, shaped it, and finally set the Magi Crystal fragments into the scabbard.

On the grip he made subtle carvings to prevent slipping, and at the tip of the grip he also inlaid Magi Crystals.

"Now it's complete."

The beautiful dagger was complete. The scabbard was aluminum, its color a subdued gold studded with tiny Magi Crystals. Pulling it out a clear silver-colored blade made its appearance.

"You couldn't buy a thing like this for even a million Torr, huh."

Stearina commented.

CHAPTER 41

JEALOUSY

On the next day, Egelia Kingdom's royal castle had finally calmed down and recovered.

In the morning, Egelia's nobles who were inside the castle assembled, and according to Earl Kuzuma they were explained to about the present condition and the plans for the future.

And then before noon.

This time, all the invitees including the Magi Craftsmen like Jin and the others assembled.

To begin with they announced that this time's riot was orchestrated by the [Unifilers], that the Celuroa Kingdom's special envoy Dominique was the direct culprit, that using Elradrite she launched a large-scale attack, that countermeasures already exist and preparations to spread the technology to other nations hereafter are already underway, and other such things.

And finally was the conclusion of the golem party.

"We were delayed by this unexpected incident, but We would like to offer Our thanks to you ladies and gentlemen who gathered here for the sake of Prince Ernest, and announce Our evaluation of the golems you brought."

All of the people present bowed their heads deeply as the King spoke.

Then, the Minister of Domestic Affairs William took over the rest and was made to announce the results.

"First place, His Highness Ernest's favorite golem, 'Lotte'. Second place, regrettably destroyed but nonetheless one that was beautifully molded and a pleasure to look at, the crystal golem 'Ceres'."

Everyone could understand the ranking.

And then in the third place was Schwarz Ritter. There was no fourth place or lower. This time there was surely no other option.

“To the one who presented ‘Lotte’, the assistant feudal lord of Blue Land, administrator of the eastern section, Earl Kuzuma we bestow additional territory, and a reward to the manufacturer, Magi Craftsman Jin.”

Jin would also get a reward. This must’ve been that other reward apart from Reiko’s case.

“We would also like to express our gratitude to the Magi Craftsman who manufactured ‘Ceres’, Stearina-dono.”

It looked like Stearina also got something.

“Finally, we’d like to similarly thank the manufacturer of Schwarz Ritter, Shouro Empire’s diplomat Reinhardt-dono, and in addition present a gift.”

Right after Egelia Kingdom’s compliments were given, the rewards were announced.

However, today Elsa had been looking depressed since the morning. Reinhardt noticed it and,

“Elsa, are you feeling ill?”

He asked with a whisper. However, Elsa silently shook her head.

“If that’s the case, alright...”

The reward Jin got was the title of Egelia Kingdom’s ‘Honorary Magi Craftsman’ and a badge with an extremely tiny piece of Elradrite fitted into it.

Gifting Elradrite, which was a resource completely controlled by the country, was a gesture that Jin was treated similarly to a state guest. Just that meant that he was considered a dependable and trusted person.

“Jin, it’s going to be difficult after this...”

There was no mistaking that now every country would unanimously covet Jin. Only

when Reinhardt whispered that, Elsa who heard him raised her downcast eyes.



“Aah, I’m tired.”

Lying down on his bed in the guest house, Jin complained. He wasn’t good with formalities.

Just then he heard a knock. Come in, Jin said, and Reiko opened the door. Jin got up and greeted the guest while sitting on his bed. To put it bluntly, with bad manners.

“Excuse me.”

The one who talked and entered the room was the Royal Secret Maid Laila. Yes, she was supposed to be monitoring Jin, but ever since that golem riot sometimes she went elsewhere.

And, this time she entered the room after expressly knocking.

“U-umm, it was just for a short while, but I apologize for causing you trouble!”

That was the first thing Laila said.

“Eh? A short while?”

“Y-yes! After today’s events, I have been released of my duties of monitoring Jin-sama!”

Apparently it would be discorteous to monitor someone who has received the title of ‘Honorary Magi Craftsman’.

Even Jin could guess that. Then,

“Oh, is that so. Thank you very much for your work until now.”

Jin gave his thanks.

“Yes, I think I’ve been lacking in many areas, so please forgive me.”

Jin said that while he didn’t know if she managed to monitor him properly or not, but as a maid he’d give her around 75 points out of a hundred.

“T-thank you very much!”

Laila blushed with deep emotion and said. She then once mored made a deep bow and,

“Well then, I’m reluctant to part but I’ll be going now, please excuse me.”

She said and left. And forgot to close the door.

“...Make that 70 points.”

Jin muttered with a strained smile while watching Reiko close the door that was left wide open.



“Elsa, really, what’s wrong?”

After returning to the guest house, Reinhardt was worried and visited Elsa’s room.

“...Rai-nii.”

Elsa, whose eyes were wet with tears for some reason or another and who lay on her bed face down, raised just her face up at Reinhardt and slowly opened her mouth. And then talked. About the conversation between Jin and Stearina she had eavesdropped on last night.

“...Hmm.”

“...After that, I turned a little gloomy. Why?”

At that moment, Mine who had been silent until now spoke.

“Young lady, what you’re feeling towards Jin-sama is...”

But Reinhardt interrupted her,

“Shut up, Mine. ...Elsa, what do you think Jin and her were doing?”

He asked. Elsa only shook her head.

“...I don’t know. But I thought they seemed somewhat close. Ah, and then I got the impression that Jin-kun was taught by Stearina-san which is unusual.”

After Reinhardt heard that, he spoke of his conclusion.

“Elsa, that feeling is called ‘jealousy.’”

“Jealousy?”

Elsa, her head raised, repeated the word.

“Yeah. Way back, you always played with your brothers and me, right? At that time, when other kids were on good terms with your brothers and me you sulked and got into a bad mood.”

“..”

Elsa listened silently.

“It’s the same. You heard Jin talk with another woman like they got along nicely, and you got jealous.”

“But, that’s-”

“Do you deny it?”

Reinhardt said and gently stroked the head of Elsa who was lying down.

“No matter how old you get, you never change huh. If something’s on your mind and even if it’s okay to just ask, you just bottle it in like this. Good grief, even though you’re such a tomboy you can be unusually timid.”

While talking, Reinhardt’s tone became milder and his arm stroking her head more kind.

“You’re 17 today, right? Despite that, you’re still a child.”

When he said that, Elsa pushed Reinhardt’s hand aside,

“...I’m not a child any more.”

Elsa said and stood up.

“Alright, that’s the spirit. Listen, be considerate to other people. That’s the adult thing to do.”

“To other people...”

“That’s right. When ‘Albus’ attacked us, didn’t you first and foremost protect Jin. Remember that feeling.”

“...”

“I’ll go check up on Jin after this.”

Reinhardt said and left Elsa’s room.



Reinhardt arrived at Jin’s room and,

“Reinhardt, you came at a good time. I was just thinking I should go visit you.”

Jin said. Then,

“Today’s Elsa’s birthday, right?”

He confirmed. Reinhardt nodded, then

“Previously when we were touring in Bolgia, Elsa wanted a dagger, but is gifting a dagger as a birthday present alright?”

Jin asked. As expected it seems he wasn’t satisfied with just Stearina’s talk. Then like in support of her, Reinhardt said,

“Hmm, I guess not really if gifting it to an unrelated person. In general it’s something you’d gift for a relative. However, it’s not like it’s forbidden to gift one.”

“Huh, is that so.”

For Jin, it was a rather complicated answer. Jin thought it over for a while and then,

“In that case, Reinhardt, can you do me a favor.”

He said and presented Reinhardt the dagger,

“As you’re related to Elsa, it shouldn’t be strange for you to hand this over to her, right?”

Reinhardt took it and was surprised by the exquisitely styled scabbard and grip, and after unsheathing it was struck with admiration by the Mithril’s brilliance.

“Jin, could it be that you made this?”

Jin nodded, then,

“Hmm, you’re really loved by the god of crafting it seems. It’s magnificent, and the design is splendid. I couldn’t imitate it even a bit.”

Reinhardt praised the work to the skies, but Jin scratched his head and,

“No, actually I got the design from Stearina.”

He confessed. When Reinhardt heard that, he remembered the original reason he had for visiting Jin’s room.

“Speaking of her, Jin, it appears that you were up to something with Stearina-dono last night?”

Reinhardt tried asking in a casual manner. When Jin heard that he looked awkwardly embarrassed and,

“You’ve got me there, you could hear it from the hallway? Aah, I’m fatally poor at designing, so when I came across Stearina while searching for materials I asked for her counsel.”

He replied. Keep it a secret from Elsa, he also added.

I knew it was something like that, Reinhardt thought in his heart when he heard Jin. If you think about it, Jin comes with the sister-in-law (?) called Reiko included. With her seductive techniques wouldn’t work on Jin, he thought.

Reinhardt breathed a sigh of relief in his mind, and with a glad look,

“Alright, I’ll handle things regarding the dagger.”

He said and patted Jin’s shoulder.

CHAPTER 42

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

In the evening on the very same day, the guest house's hallway was borrowed for holding Elsa's birthday party.

Looking at the assembled lineup, there was of course the guest of honor Elsa, her cousin Reinhardt, Earl Kuzuma, Beana, and Jin.

The nanny Mine, the butler Adberg and the guard Herman were also there.

"Everyone, thank you for coming."

In a green dress Elsa gave a simple address.

Then, Earl Kuzuma as the representative,

"Miss Elsa, happy birthday. Cheers!"

He led everyone to a toast. Everyone raised matching glasses.

And then all present gave gifts.

"Happy 17th birthday, Elsa."

From Reinhardt, she received a pendant made out of a large Aquamarine. It was of course the one he had bought in Elias Kingdom's capital Borgia.

"Thanks, Rai-nii."

Elsa smiled with her whole face and looked happy. At once she undid the chain and hung it from her neck. It matched with the color of her dress and looked very pretty.

"Happy birthday, miss Elsa."

From Earl Kuzuma she got perfume. Its scent was that of a Citran which Elsa liked very

much. Instead of an intense fragrance, a faintly refreshing scent wafted from it.

“Earl, thanks.”

Elsa tried applying a bit of it behind her ears. The faint fragrance was pleasant.

“Happy birthday, Elsa.”

Jin gave her the brooch. It was made out of Mithril and set with multicolored crystals.

Elsa accepted it while looking a bit down, but because of the beauty of the molding and the color she broke her silence.

“Pretty. These, Magi Crystals?”

“Yeah. They’re too small to be of practical use but I inlaid some of every attribute.”

Its molding was also magnificent. The whole of it was made out of mithril, but the petals and the flower bud were coated with gold, surrounded by leaves coated with aluminum that had been colored emerald green.

Multicolored Magi Crystals were arranged coming down like drops of dew from the flower.

“It’s lovely. I’ll treasure it.”

Elsa said and held the brooch close to her chest. Jin turned to her and,

“To tell you the truth, I was the one who made it, but the design was, umm ...Done with Stearina’s assistance.”

He said honestly. When Elsa heard that coming from Jin, she understood and thought oh, so that’s what that was last night.

“It’s okay, this is filled with Jin-kun’s feelings. Thanks.”

She said and smiled.

From Beana she got a bouquet. Apparently she asked one of the maids to go buy them.

“Thanks, Beana. Good fortune to you and the Earl.”

Elsa said, then Beana blushed and looked downwards, and Earl Kuzuma too looked a little shy.

From Mine she got a handkerchief, and from Adberg also a handkerchief. Then when Herman also gave her a handkerchief the three became agitated but,

“Everyone, thanks. There’s never enough handkerchiefs. I’m glad.”

Elsa said and bowed.

Reinhardt who was looking at them by himself gave an appreciative nod.

After that they dined together. As Mine knew what Elsa’s preferences were, she worked with the guest house’s cooks to make the menu.

Elsa looked very happy when there were nothing but foods she enjoyed, and the way she ate made it look delicious.

Surely there was no one who could look at her expression and not feel soothed.

And after the meal, while they were drinking tea and having a peaceful talk,

“Now, Elsa, today there’s a special present for you.”

Reinhardt said, and handed over a long and narrow package to her. Its length was about 40 centimeters and it was a little heavy.

“Thanks. What’s this?”

“Just open it and see.”

When told so Elsa began to open the package. When she was done her eyes went wide open.

From the package appeared a dagger with a golden grip and a golden scabbard. The

scabbard was studded with delicate ornamental Magi Stones in multiple colors. And in the pommel, although small, a Magi Crystal the same color as Elsa's light blue eyes was fitted.

"This...?"

"Some time ago, you wanted one right?"

"Mm. I wanted a dagger that was like the one that was important to mother."

Elsa replied and Reinhardt said,

"Mh-hm. That right there was made by Jin."

"Eh?"

When Elsa heard that she was surprised and her eyes went a little wide.

"Jin asked me if it's okay or not to give a girl an edged tool for a birthday present. Adult concerns mean things like this."

"Jin, kun...did."

She said and the Jin in question felt embarrassed and looked down. Elsa walked up to embarrassed Jin and,

"Jin-kun, thanks."

She said, gave a quick bow of her head, and returned to her seat. But she didn't sit down, and instead with the dagger in hand,

"Let's try unsheathing it."

She said and unsheathed the dagger.

"Oooh."

"How beautiful!"

Earl Kuzuma and the guard Herman blurted out. Apparently those two understood the dagger's worth. Actually, one more person, the butler Adberg knew of its value but he barely managed to keep quiet.

At the blade's base the dagger was about three centimeters wide. The blade's length was around 30 centimeters, and it gradually grew more narrow towards the sharp tip.

The guard, handle, and the scabbard were golden, however they were only aluminum that was colored. The Magi Crystal in the pommel was small, but its transparency had an eye-catching beauty to it.

"Mithril?"

It seemed that Elsa had a rough idea of what the material was. As someone who possessed Magic Energy, she could surely understand that the sword transmitted Magic Energy well, and that it could serve the same function as a wand.

For magi knights, a wand would let them direct their Magic Energy and focus it better, it was an extremely useful item for them.

But it was hard to have a blade hold the properties of a wand. Because hard Mithril transmitted Magic Energy poorly, and Mithril that transmitted it well was soft.

Nevertheless, this blade that Jin made was hard on top of transmitting Magic Energy well, so it appeared to be plenty strong enough to use as a weapon.

However,

"Elsa, for noblewomen a blade isn't a weapon to kill an enemy with. Remember that."

Reinhardt began to lecture Elsa as if warning her with an unusually gentle tone.

"...Rai-nii?"

"As a noblewoman, that blade is the final tool to protect your dignity with. Only when you absolutely no matter what do not want to your will to be trampled is it acceptable to draw."

"...?"

"I guess you don't fully understand yet. But that's alright. Undoubtedly some day a time when you naturally understand will come. At that time I want you to remember my words."

“Mm, Rai-nii. I got it. Thanks.”

Elsa meekly thanked him. Frankly, she understood what he said, but understanding what he meant was still far off. However, she understood that Reinhardt told her something important so she vowed in her heart to make sure she would not forget what he said.

“...”

And then those words soaked into not only Elsa’s heart, but Mine’s too.

When you don’t want your will to be trampled. Until now, there had been two times. First time it was through force, and the second time it was through political power that she had been overpowered.

She wasn’t a noble herself. So there’s no other way around it, she had thought, however Reinhardt’s words strangely stuck in Mine’s heart.



“It seems that the detailed information has arrived.”

“Yes, this morning the dove arrived, and we immediately began analysis.”

“So, how was it?”

“Yes, it appears there was a single golem that held unthinkable power.”

“It wasn’t Schwarz Ritter?”

“No, Schwarz Ritter’s strength was in line with investigations. This time, the one that destroyed most of the rampaging golems possessed over five times more strength than Schwarz Ritter.”

“What? Are you sure you’re not mistaken?”

“Yes. However, I think that a golem that displays such strength cannot act for long periods of time. I conjecture that most likely it is a golem for short decisive battles that utilizes Elradrite.”

“Ha, hahaha. All the same, soon we’ll be able to analyze it. And I anticipate we’ll then produce golems above that one.”

“That is so.”

“A genius, just like I thought.”

CHAPTER 43

WHAT'S RESTRAINT?

By the next day following Elsa's birthday, Jin had officially received the reward and a certificate.

The certificate listed that he got the credentials of a 'Honorary Magi Craftsman', the badge, and a half coat.

The standard for nobles and magi knights was a robe, and for knights a coat was the standard. However, for Egelia Kingdom's Magi Craftsmen it was a half coat.

On the left side of the chest and on the back of the coat were tiny crests of Egelia Kingdom.

The certificate was a mithril plate on which to begin with Jin's name was carved, and the rest of the contents said that the King of Egelia guarantees something or the other.

The badge with a piece of Elradrite fitted into it he got yesterday was something he could pin to the collar or the chest of his everyday clothes.

Finally, not as an extra prize or anything but, they said Jin would be granted a carriage and a horse for his own exclusive use.

Then, very appropriately for a Magi Craftsman, when Jin said he wanted to manufacture it himself the minister of Domestic Affairs laughed and acknowledged that, then wrote up a grant for the necessary materials.

"Let's see, now that it's come to this should I be getting serious?"

After yesterday's award ceremony, Reinhardt had scared Jin by saying there'll surely be many difficulties from now on, so he decided to build a carriage that possesses at the very least the defense capability against unfriendly contact.

“Basically the frame will be of Light Silver, and the contact surfaces will be coated with Adamantite. Horse golems will do the pulling.””

You could already imagine how just that would make for a preposterous carriage.

“Wheels also made out of Light Silver, with Adamantite ball bearings.”

However, there was one problem. It was that this castle’s storehouse didn’t have that much Light Silver.

“Now, what to do about this?”

Here Jin thought of an idea. It was installing a Warp Gate inside the carriage.

Originally, he planned to establish a Warp Gate to Hourai Island somewhere so that he could at least have important materials brought to him.

If he installed a Warp Gate small enough for only one person to go through in the corner of the cabin or the luggage space he could go home at any time.

And then Jin decided to bring materials from Hourai Island.

And so, first he built a temporary cabin. This would have served its purpose after finishing the carriage proper, so he built it unseriously.

Installing a Warp Gate inside was extremely difficult.

Fortunately he had Reiko with her small body do most of the heavy work, and he could alternate between applying [Fusion] and [Joint] to the materials.

About an hour later the temporary cabin and the Warp Gate was complete.

Reiko was told to promptly warp to Hourai Island and fetch the needed materials.

“In that case, see you later, Father.”

With those words Reiko warped to Hourai Island.

Today, Reinhardt and Elsa had been invited by Reinhardt's acquaintance for a visit, and similarly Earl Kuzuma and Beana were invited by the Earl's friend for a visit. Both Reinhardt and the Earl asked Jin to come with them, however, Jin said he wanted to build the carriage and so he was left behind by himself.

Until the materials were gathered Jin decided to review the details of the carriage.

"Hmm, I think it would be bad if I didn't exercise a little restraint."

He thought of something admirable, but even from the current state anyone could foresee that the end result would not turn out restrained, however, there was no one there who could point this out to him.

"Independent suspension for the four wheels...is no good. Then if I used a trailing arm instead..."

He added trailing arms that had a long stroke to both the front and rear, with the axle serving the purpose of the so-called torsion bar.

As the axle was fixed the wheels did the revolving and so turning was also improved.

"Now what to do about the damper. Building an oil damper would just be foolish, right. I guess using some viscoelastic material as the damper's spring would be fine."

Et cetera, he kept muttering his monologue while finishing up his plans until Reiko came back.

"Father, I'm back."

"Oh, Reiko, just the right time, these plans look fine to me."

"In that case I will have the materials carried in at once."

Reiko said, then spoke to the [ManaCom] in her hand.

"This is Reiko, Topaz-2, send out the materials."

"(Topaz-2, roger that.)"

Surely waiting on the other side of the Warp Gate, a few seconds after Topaz-2's reply,

“They’re here.”

From the Warp Gate, ingots of Light Silver warped in. Reiko took them and put them next to Jin.

“Yes, go on.”

Reiko issuing orders through the [ManaCom] with Topaz-2 following them and sending in materials. In a flash a heap of materials had piled up.

Jin had been watching said,

“Alright, stop for now. If it turns out to still not enough I’ll tell you.”

“Yes.”

Reiko gave a command, and the flow of materials temporarily ceased.

(Ah, Reiko and the others having built-in communications function is handy.)

Jin faced the material pile while thinking about such things.

“Let’s start with the cabin, I suppose.”

He decided to start from building something with a living room-like atmosphere. He pictured a minivan which six people could ride in.

The dimensions were: inside width, 1.8 meters; length, 4 meters; and height, 1.9 meters. It should be enough for even Reinhardt to not bonk his head on the roof.

The frame was all made out of Light Silver, the walls, the floor, and on top of their honeycomb structure he added wood, and so it looked as if it was wooden.

Until now, no people were seen. Building in the desolate location behind the guest house was effective.

“Uhh, now to transfer the Warp Gate.”

He removed the Warp Gate from the temporary cabin and installed it. Its size was so that Reiko could go through it without trouble, but Jin had to crouch a little to fit. However, there was no problem with the functionality.

He camouflaged it well so that even if someone took a glance, no, even if someone took

a good look at it they wouldn't notice what's being concealed.

He added windows that weren't glass but muscovite, and installed frames that could open and close. He also prepared a sunroof that could be used to opened to look outside or use as ventilation.

The body frame was increasingly complete.

"Let's add wheels to begin with."

Considering how it was going to run over bad roads, having wheels with a large diameter was good, but too large and it would affect the overall height, so made them 60 centimeters in diameter.

He built them out of Light Silver, then blackened them.

"I think it'd be better if the stroke was on the larger side?"

He was considering the length of the swingarms. Then, he hit on a good idea.

"I've got it, I've got it!"

There was no particular reason to imitate this world's carriages, and neither was there a need to reproduce modern Earth's suspension mechanics.

"A golem's arm..."

That was his solution. The arms of the golems Jin made had skeletons and muscles. Muscles would work as a spring or a damper.

That is to say, when an external force was applied to them they would retract and take away the force, and if the external force disappeared they would speedily return to their original position.

"That'll be good."

And so, using Magical Muscles on reinforced Light Silver as the skeleton, after all the four wheels got independent suspension.

He covered the exterior with Light Silver, so from its appearance there was no way anyone could imagine how the internal construction was.

Furthermore, Jin added a reclining function to the seats starting with the coachman's seat.

He also installed brakes that he had forgotten about when remodeling the carriages with Reinhardt. Well, as he was putting golems' arms to use, the construction was simply a palm-shaped part that attached to the brake pad and pushed on the wheel to stop it.

Then, he made headlights using the [Light] magic, and a ventilation system using the [Breeze] magic.

Even more, he added [Heat] and [Cooling] and the equipment turned out to become an air-conditioner.

To finish up, he made the horse that would pull it. That is to say, a horse golem.

"No way I could equip it with a golem engine, after all."

He thought something like that, and you could almost hear someone complain "haven't you heard of the idiom 'six of one, half a dozen of the other'!?"

As he had built many horse golems already, he finished one in a short time. Then,

"...Oh good. I made it in time."

A voice like that could be heard.

When Jin looked, there stood Elsa gasping for air.

"I, wanted, to, be, the, first, one, to, see, the, carriage, Jin, kun, built."

Elsa must've come running, as she was gasping and out of breath, looking at the carriage with gleaming eyes and a sweaty forehead.

"Is, this, Jin-kun, 's, carriage?"

"Elsa, did you run here?"

“Mm.”

Despite being a little astonished by Elsa’s unusual shape,

“I thought so. Well, you can drink this if you want.”

When Jin had begun the construction and had become absorbed in it, Reiko had prepared a light meal for him, and Jin picked up the Citran juice and gave it to Elsa,

“Thank, you.”

Elsa thanked him and chugged the sweet-looking juice without stopping.

“Ohhh.”

Elsa handed the emptied glass to Jin and tried again,

“The carriage Jin-kun built. I want to ride it. Can I?”

Putting it like that, Jin couldn’t refuse. It hadn’t yet been moved, but there didn’t seem to be any particular problems so,

“Alright, there’ll be a test run after this, so if you want you can.”

Jin said, and hurried back to work to finish the last adjustments.

CHAPTER 44

SUPER CARRIAGE

After tying the golem horse to the carriage the temporary preparations were complete.

“Alright, here you are.”

Jin opened the cabin’s door. Then a mechanism caused some steps to come down.

“This is, amazing.”

This time, Elsa was wearing a long dress with a low hem, so she had been thinking that while getting off the carriage she could manage (by jumping off) she didn’t know what to do about getting on the carriage.

With the steps she could easily get on.

“The inside is...interesting.”

The cabin was for six people. There were three seats side-by-side in two rows. They were not face-to-face, instead both were facing the direction of movement.

The window that worked as a windscreen was made to be wide, and the seats were arranged so that there was a good view of where you were going.

As the seats were covered with a magical beast’s leather and filled with devil silk wadding their cushioning properties were also good.

The driver’s seat was more or less prepared, but as the pulling was done by a horse golem it was in practice unnecessary. Consequently, without a coachman you could see ahead better.

“Reiko, could you sit on the driver’s seat just in case?”

Jin asked and,

“...Yes.”

Reiko replied somewhat sullenly. Nevertheless, maybe because some time ago Jin had

said Elsa's like a young little sister, Reiko didn't look that much displeased.

Reiko who had sat down on the driver's seat turned around to look at Jin. He was sitting next to Elsa. When she saw that, Reiko's face became just a little harsh.

"Alright, please."

Maybe he noticed, maybe he didn't, Jin gave the signal to go.

Reiko grasped the reins stretching out from the horse golems and commanded them with Magic Energy. The horse golems began to walk gently.

"Sweet. We moved."

Elsa was pleased. That was probably because of the movement.

The carriage came from behind the guest house to the front of it, and then left for the plaza. The eyes of the castle sentinel who saw it turned round.

The carriage was fine. It looked a bit eccentric, but that was that. However, the horses pulling it.

They were verdigris green. In other words, that meant they were made of metal. Namely, they were horse golems. The sentinel had never seen such things.

Because it appeared from behind the guest house, they figured it was a guest of honor's possession. However, it was too extraordinary for them to just let pass,

"Ho-hold it, the carriage over there."

So they commanded it to stop.

"Reiko, stop."

"Yes, Father."

The carriage stopped, the sentinels saw the little girl who was the coachman and were even more amazed, but on a second look they recognized that girl.

"Ah, perhaps you are...Reiko-san!?"

For some reason the sentinel used honorific language.

“Yes, I am Reiko.”

Reiko replied.

“Ooooh! I knew it! During the golem riot the other day, Reiko-san saved me by a hair’s breadth!

“Huh.”

The sentinel was somewhat agitated, but Reiko didn’t remember at all. Because every human except for Jin literally came second to her.

“A-anyway, what might this be!?”

“It’s a carriage.”

“Err, I received a permit and built this carriage.”

The door opened and Jin spoke, then,

“Ooh, aren’t you Jin-dono! The gentleman who received the title of ‘Honorary Magi Craftsman’ and who built Reiko-san!”

The sentinel was sweltering. Sweltering more Reinhardt when he got excited.

“Is that so, a carriage that you’ve built. I see, even the horses are golems! As expected of a ‘Honorary Magi Craftsman’!!”

“Excuse me, but can we go now?”

Reiko asked and,

“Yes! Go right ahead!”

And the castle sentinel saw them off while waving their hand.

“...A weird person.”

Elsa voiced her impressions.

In the plaza inside the royal castle, because the soil was being prepared they couldn't really test the riding comfort but,

"Amazing. It nearly doesn't shake. Before this I thought the carriages Jin-kun and Rainii remodeled were amazing but this is even more amazing."

Elsa gave high praise.

Then they tried increasing the speed a little. They went to maybe about ten kilometers per hour. It was likely they'd be scolded if they went too fast inside the royal castle.

"Reiko, what's the output on the horse golems?"

Jin asked and,

"Yes, it's around ten percent."

Reiko's reply came. Jin nodded like he was satisfied, but Elsa was surprised.

"...Jin-kun's standards really are different."

With that the test run was over, and the carriage did a U-turn. The wheels that had independent suspension offered little resistance, and the carriage changed its course nearly on the spot.

"What was that, just now?"

Elsa looked like she had witnessed something unbelievable.

Because of her high position, she had had the chance to ride many carriages, and once again she realized that none of the carriages she had previously ridden on were a match for this one.



"Heeey, Jin!"

Someone yelled. Looking at that direction, there was the third Prince, His Highness Ernest, accompanied by Lotte.

"I was looking out from my room and haven't you made something amazing!"

Seems he was also interested.

Jin got off the carriage and greeted the Prince.

“Your Highness, is this okay? Coming out from the inner palace?”

He asked and Prince Ernest said,

“It’s fine, I’m the fourth in line for the throne. My two elder brothers and my uncle are above me, so as far as this country’s concerned I’m not that important.”

This was the first time Jin heard that and he replied to the Prince’s irresponsible words,

“Your Highness, you shouldn’t talk like that. For His Majesty, Your Highness is obviously a child who shares his blood. Please try to remember the time of the attack.”

Jin said and remonstrated him.

Prince Ernest looked a little down while listening, but soon raised his head and said,

“...Mm, I know. It might be as you say. I’ll be careful.”

“Please be, Your Highness.”

Jin was relieved. Prince Ernest had his selfish moments but deep down he was an honest kid.

“Be that as it may, this carriage, it’s amazing!”

Because the Prince was staring at it with twinkling eyes Jin smiled awkwardly and,

“Want to get on?”

He asked,

“Yeah!”

And an energetic answer came right back at him.

“Err, there’s already a preceding passenger, is that okay?”

“A preceding passenger?”

The prince peeked inside the carriage, and met the eyes of Elsa who was there.

“Ah, I see. So Jin was in the middle of a tryst with her.”

“Y-your Highness!”

Jin was flustered,

“A tryst?”

And Elsa didn’t understand.

“Your Highness, she’s Reinhardt’s cousin, Elsa. She’s my friend.”

“I’m Elsa.”

Elsa go up, pinched the hem of her skirt and lightly bent her knees in a curtsy.

“My my. Miss Elsa, I am the third Prince of Egelia Kingdom, my name is Ernest.”

The prince said, took Elsa’s left hand and kissed the back of it. From the gesture you could tell that even though he was 13, he had been thoroughly taught the manners of royals.

“Now Jin, make it run for me!”

However, his The high-spirited figure he had while saying so was appropriate for his age.

Jin instructed Reiko to have the horse golems run at ten percent power.



“That was terrific! Jin, I want one too! Build one!”

Sure enough, it turned out that the Prince wanted an identical carriage.

CHAPTER 45

THE DAY OF DEPARTURE

Early spring, 18th of March. The disorder in Egelia Kingdom's royal castle has settled.

"Jin, you'll come back, right? Next time you can teach me how to build golems without hurrying!"

The third Prince Ernest said.

"Jin, I want to see you again later. At that time I want to show you Beana cradling a cute baby in her arms."

Earl Kuzuma said.

"Jin...It's a trite thing but I can't say anything else...Thanks for everything. I'll never forget these few days. Nor about the visit to Kunlun Island."

Beana said.

In addition there were great many people like maids who were reluctant to part and a castle sentinel who was looking worshippingly at Reiko.

He and the maids saw Jin's group off at nine in the morning, and the group departed from the capital Asunto.



"King, was it really alright to let them go?"

The Prime Minister, who was between the thrones, said.

"That person is dangerous. His technology, knowledge, abilities, and that Automata following him. Any one of those would be a great threat by itself."

"We know. But you know, that Jin fellow didn't seem to have any ambitions. Ernest took to him too."

“Even so...!”

“If We would imprudently antagonize him and he turned against us, what then? Couldn't that Automata called Reiko take on all of Our soldiers by herself?”

The King said, and looked up at the ceiling,

“As that's the case, wouldn't there be many more benefits to just treating him as amicably as possible?”

“ ... ”

Withdrawing from between the thrones,

“Naive.”

The Prime Minister muttered.

“There's no such guarantee that he won't turn against us. And to say nothing of the possibility of him getting abducted by the enemy and made their subordinate. Even though it's late now, I should dispatch someone...”

At that moment a man called out to him.

“Prime Minister, is something wrong?”

It was the Minister of Magic, Kelhidore. The Prime Minister then told Kelhidore of his worries and,

“Hmm, Prime Minister, in the grand scheme of things I agree with you. Not long ago someone came to report to me, and it seems like that Jin possesses outrageous Magic Energy. You see, he converted all of the destroyed and scrapped golems into materials all at once.”

The other day, Jin turned the scrap into materials with the [Fusion] magic. He said he had used an Elradrite, but even with that without supplying Magic Energy there would be no effect.

For example, a transistor amplifies the power of an electric signal, but it needs an adequate power source. Never does it produce something from nothing.

Elradrite is the same. Without a Magi Crystal working as a base supply of Magic Energy, things like casting amplified magic cannot be done.

As the operation procedures of Elradrite are state secrets, Jin who had no such knowledge didn't realize it. Of course, neither did Stearina.

There was also a motive like this behind not informing anyone of how just Elradrite couldn't amplify Magic Energy.

"But personally, I dare say he's someone I'd like to get along with."

As even the Minister of Magic evaluated Jin so highly, the Prime Minister Marquis Boyd North Galueri said,

"Hmm, even so, there's no way we can just not do anything. For now, let's at least have him monitored."

And that being the case, he gave orders to a subordinate.



"Oooh, it really is very comfortable, this carriage."

"Mm. From now on I want to only ride in this one."

Elsa seemed to be extremely pleased, and was sitting in the seat next to Jin as if it was only natural.

"I can certainly see why the Prince would want this."

That's right, yesterday, that is on the 17th of March, it had taken Jin the whole day to build Prince Ernest a private carriage of his own, and in addition teach the Guild about the structure of and how to utilize and install golem arms to carriages as suspension devices.

Of course, even though it was called the Prince's private carriage, it didn't have an air-conditioner. The horse golems were limited to ten percent output, it was an inferior version of Jin's carriage.

Regardless, the manager of the materials had turned ghastly pale and had looked pitiful.

It was the same with the structure taught to the Guild.

Even so, with regards to carriages it was innovative, and may perhaps become mainstream from now on.

“Moreover, autonomous-type horse golems, huh. They’re great.”

Now after leaving the capital and sightings of people becoming more rare, Reiko had also returned into the cabin, and the horse golems were pulling the carriage independently.

Leaving the capital, for a while the scenery looked rural, but carrying on gradually the houses became more sparse.

And then, they could see a row of red poles, after which not a single silhouette of a house could be seen. Not even a single shack.

Although the environment didn’t seem particularly bad, there being grass-covered plains and forests.

“This area north of Asunto belongs to the royal family.”

Reinhardt explained.

“There were red poles, right? Starting from there, precious medicinal plants and unusual flowers grow, so I’ve heard there’s various limitations imposed.”

In other words, it’s a nature preserve.

“Can people enter?”

Jin asked and,

“Individuals can without a problem. Even if the intention is gathering medicinal plants, it’s allowed for private people.”

It seems gathering them would be fine as long as you didn’t take too much.

“However, cultivating the land or grazing on it is forbidden.”

If it was a nature preserve then that was obvious.

“So living there is forbidden too.”

That’s why there weren’t any people.

The carriage moved while they were looking a looking scenery that had been kept natural.

Then near noon, they could once again see red poles.

“Oh, we’re finally leaving the reserve.”

Reinhardt said.

“It’s going to be noon soon, let’s find some good place to have lunch in.”

Normally there’d be a village or a town nearby, but because of the preserve they were surrounded only by nature.

“To tell you the truth, this course isn’t the main road. On the main road there’s lodgings at intervals.”

Reinhardt spoke.

“So, why?”

Jin asked the natural question and the one who answered was Elsa.

“Jin-kun. You’ll understand once we go on a bit longer.”

“?”

For now as Elsa said so, Jin put off hearing the answer for later, and had the carriage travel a bit longer.

After ten minutes had passed and the field of view grew wider, a vivid purplish red filled Jin’s eyes.

“Ooh?”

To Jin who reflexively let out a voice, Elsa said,

“Hehe, astonished? When I first saw this, I was surprised too.”

Before his eyes spread a purplish red carpet. On a second look, it was a field of flowers.

“I wanted to have lunch here, so I had us travel this way.”

Apparently many years ago during a trip, they came across this place by chance and the scenery was etched into their memories.

“And, I wanted to show Jin-kun this scenery. So I pestered Rai-nii and we took this route.”

“Oh, so that’s how it was. Uh-huh, it’s a pretty scene. Thanks, Elsa.”

“Mm. I’m glad you like it.”

A little farther there was an open space, and the carriages were stopped.

“Alright, let’s have lunch.”

Under unusually good-tempered Mine’s leadership the lunch preparations advanced.

She spread a rug right next to the field of flowers and said,

“Here you go, everyone.”

They ate slices of hard bread similar to French bread and warmed soup.

The same bread was also grilled a little, with thinly-sliced meat that was also grilled on top of it.

Salad that was prepared in the morning.

Teee.

Even though it was the first day of travel, the important preliminary preparation

seemed to already have been done.

“Mm, tasty.”

Reinhardt also gave his compliments.

“Mine, this is, delicious.”

“Thank you very much.”

The soup was seasoned to Elsa’s liking, so of course she found the taste delicious as she ate it.

This time even Mine didn’t give rise to any problems, so the lunch ended peacefully.

“The next town is less than an hour away, so let’s take it a bit easy.”

Reinhardt said while gazing at the flower field.

“Mm, agreed.”

Elsa had rushed into the field of flowers in delight.

Jin also tried getting near the flower field. He sat down there, plucked a single flower and held it in front of his eyes.

The small purplish red petals formed a single group. One-by-one the small petals very much resembled the petals of a soy bean plant.

“It’s similar to a Chinese milk vetch.”

There had been a small field behind the orphanage, and in the spring seeds of Chinese milk vetches were sown to fertilize it.

For the first time in a while Jin reminisced about his previous world.

He felt as if he could hear the young children’s merry voices and see them bustle about.

“Father?”

Maybe Reiko had noticed him acting unusual, as before Jin knew it she had sat down next to him and was examining his expression.

“Is something the matter?”

“...No, it’s nothing. I was just reminiscing a bit about the past.

“The past, is it. Do you mean the world you previously lived in, Father?”

“Mh-hm.”

Jin nodded and Reiko’s expression turned to one of concern,

“Um, Father, do you find it a bother that I summoned you here?”

She asked looking nervous. Jin shook his head,

“No, not at all. If you had not ‘summoned’ me I’d be dead, so I’m grateful, there’s no way I’d be bothered by it.”

He answered and Reiko was relieved,

“That’s good then. It’s just that Father looked lonely.”

She said and softly held Jin’s left hand.



Jin and Reiko had sat there like that for a while when he suddenly thought of something and picked several of the Chinese milk vetches(?) that were at his feet and began to make something.

“Father?”

Reiko looked doubtfully at that, and Jin one by one picked up, twisted, and weaved the Chinese milk vetches(?) then,

“Alright, it’s finished.”

Jin had made a flower wreath. Then,

“Here you go, Reiko.”

He placed it on Reiko’s head.

“F-Father?”

Reiko was confused by Jin suddenly placing the flower wreath he made on her head, and Jin said to her,

“Ah, it’s cute, Reiko.”

Jin said with a smile that was just a little lonesome yet kind.

“Father...”

Reiko looked a little downwards and,

“Thank you very much.”

She smiled and thanked Jin.

“Ah, what’s, that?”

Turning towards the voice, there stood Elsa who had come back at some point. She was holding the hem of her skirt up just a little, and it held the flowers she had picked.

“Hey, Elsa. Oh, you came back with some different flowers.”

In addition the Chinese milk vetches(?) there were white and yellow flowers among other ones mixed together.

Jin saw it and,

“Elsa, do you want a flower wreath too?”

He tried asking and Elsa immediately nodded. Jin then at once began making another one.

He made the wreath mostly out of Chinese milk vetches(?), and as an accent in just one spot he arranged some of the yellow flowers Elsa had picked.

“It’s done. Here you go, Elsa.”

Jin then put it on Elsa’s head. Elsa blushed just a bit and,

“Thank...you.”

She embarrassedly thanked Jin.

The rays of the spring sun shone warmly, it was the early afternoon.



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